

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 16th, 2020 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Be Thou But Near (J.S. Bach)

OPENING HYMN 419

Let All Creation Bless the Lord

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Here let heaven and earth embrace;
here may God's people find home.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Divine Gardener, you give growth to our seeds and raise to abundant life that which seems dead. Teach us to choose blessing and life, so that we may walk blamelessly, seeking you through reconciliation with all your children. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

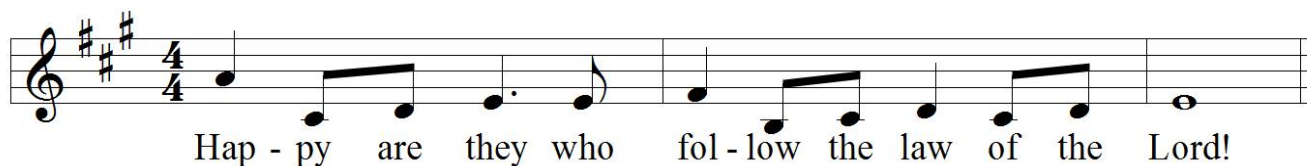
See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and

you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:1-8



Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts!
Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways.

You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.

Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!
Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgements.

I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 604

Your Word, O God, A Living Sword

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing (Gordon Young)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

Silence is kept.

Gracious God,

we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and at times, our words and deeds cause pain. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. Amen.

Your sins are forgiven ✕ by the faith of Christ, who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great; Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 408

Wind Upon the Waters

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Eternal God, you are the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers, receive all we offer you this day; turn our sickness into health and our sorrow into joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord is here

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

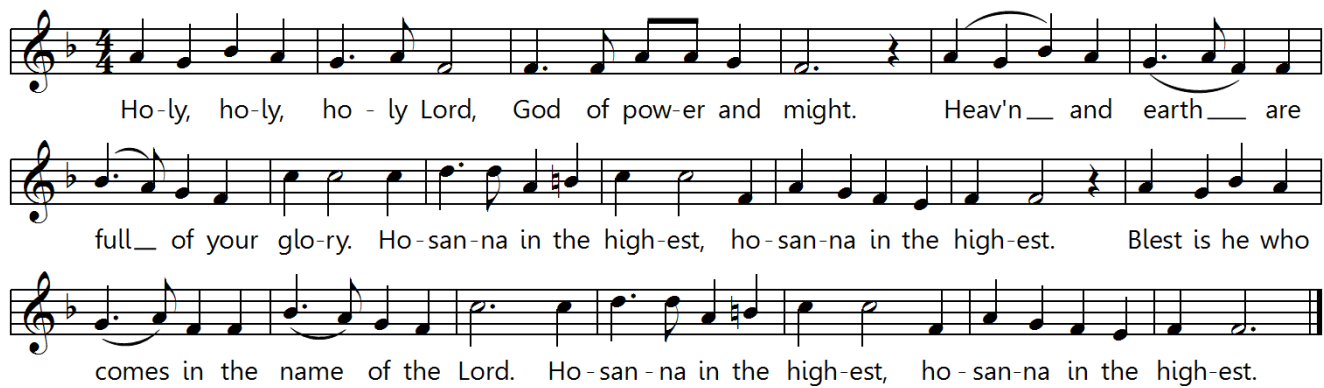
Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky, everything that gives us light, light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every plant and tree; the life that sleeps in the winter earth, and awakens again in the spring.

You give us friends and families, busy streets for young and old, the life of an earthly city fulfilled in your city to come.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

We thank you, loving God, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So gracious God, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, ✠ and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with Saint John the Evangelist and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, we pray:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your
will be done on earth as in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us
from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the
pow - er and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION *I Got Me Flowers (Michael Lubbock)*

Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God of tender care, in this eucharist we celebrate your love for us and for all people. May we show your love in our lives and know its fulfilment in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the wisdom of God, the love of Christ, and the peace of the Spirit, bless you ✠ and shine brightly in your lives this day and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 598

Go to the World

DISMISSAL

Go in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro, from Concerto in G major, BWV 592 (J.S. Bach)

<i>Presider</i>	The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff
<i>Preacher</i>	The Reverend Canon Dr Gary Hauch
<i>Deacon</i>	The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros
<i>Organist & Choirmaster</i>	Dr Gordon Johnston

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To find out what is happening in the parish, please see This Week at St John's (TWSJ) on our website (www.stjohnsottawa.ca) or pick up a hard copy on the table at the Elgin Street entrance.

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