



Sunday, May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background or belief.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Song of Praise

A Song of Christ’s Goodness

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

Salutation

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

“So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Psalter

Psalms 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Second Lesson

1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

John 17:6-19

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given

me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Children's Message

Children are invited to participate in a short reflection on today's readings.

Lectionary Discussion

- 1) *What did I learn about God from this week's readings?*
- 2) *What did I learn about love from this week's readings?*
- 3) *What did I learn about community from this week's readings?*
- 4) *What did I learn about myself from this week's readings?*

**What did God reveal to you today?*

The Nicene Creed

People

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God.
We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Anthony,
John, and Natalie.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.

This is my prayer.
This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of love and mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant 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 Confession of Sin is omitted during the Easter Season.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offering

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

You are invited to share your gifts with the gathered community. Offertory cards are available for your written gifts of prayers, questions, and/or volunteering of your talents. During this time you are also invited to remember your baptism.

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer D

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right to glorify you, Holy One,
and to give you thanks;
for you alone are God, living and true,
dwelling in light inaccessible
from before time and for ever.
Fountain of life and source of all goodness,
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you
to serve you night and day;
and, beholding the glory of your presence,

they offer you unceasing praise.
Joining with them,
and giving voice to every creature under heaven,
we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power.
Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
You formed us in your own image,
giving the whole world into our care,
so that, in obedience to you, our Creator,
we might rule and serve all your creatures.
When our disobedience took us far from you,
you did not abandon us to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help,
so that in seeking you we might find you.
Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
and through the prophets
you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much
that in the fullness of time
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin.
To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom;
to the sorrowful, joy.
To fulfill your purpose
Jesus gave himself up to death;
and, rising from the grave, destroyed death,
and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves,
but for Christ who died and rose for us,
you sent the Holy Spirit,
your own first gift for those who believe,

to complete your work in the world,
and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus
to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father,
having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end;
at supper with them Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Almighty God,
we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
Recalling Christ’s death and descent among the dead,
proclaiming Christ’s resurrection
and ascension to your right hand,
awaiting Christ’s coming in glory;
and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us,
this bread and this cup,
we praise you and we bless you.

People **We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,
And we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Celebrant God our Creator,
we pray that in your goodness and mercy
your Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts,
sanctifying them
and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people,
the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup
may become one body and one spirit,
a living sacrifice in Christ,
to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
redeemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity,
guard its faith,
and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance
with the Blessèd Virgin Mary,
with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and all the saints
who have found favor with you in ages past.
We praise you in union with them
and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours,
Almighty God and Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now pray,

People **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today 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.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Time for Prayer and Reflection

*We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist.
You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space, including using the Prayer Room.
Deacon Dan is available if you would like a prayer companion.*

Post Communion Prayer

People **God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

You are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

Blessing over Food at Easter from The Book of Occasional Services 2022

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you have given us the risen Savior to be the Shepherd of your people: Lead us, by him, to springs of living waters, and feed us with the food that endures to eternal life; where with you, O Father, and with the Holy Spirit, he lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup and bread immediately following our worship service.

A Prayer for Community by Fr. Richard Rohr

Creator God, Oh Great Love, thank you for living in us and through us. May all that we do flow directly from our deep connection with you and other beings. Help us become a community that shares each other's burdens, and the weight of glory. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world. Knowing that you are hearing us much better than we are speaking, we offer this prayer in all the Holy names of God. Amen.

Announcements

Coffee with Community continues on Thursday mornings at Starbucks (3801 Guess Rd.). A small group has been meeting on Thursdays from 9:00 - 11:00 AM to enjoy time together, get to know one another better, and to discern what God is calling The Beloved Community to be. You are welcome to join us.

The TBC Weekly Newsletter is emailed out on Fridays. If you are not on our email list but would like to be, please email revphillip@belovedcommunitydurham.org.

Financial Support is greatly appreciated. The Beloved Community is currently funded solely through donations. We are in the process of applying for grants, but receive no diocesan financial support. If you would like to support the ministries of TBC financially, you may do so via Venmo using the QR code below or by leaving your financial donation in the offering basket during our gathering worship.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, which supports our community through their prayers and the sharing of their resources.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community in other ways, you can do so by scanning the QR Code below and learning more about additional ways to give.



The Beloved Community at The Trees

belovedcommunitydurham.org

welcome@belovedcommunitydurham.org

919-244-2811

Rev. Phillip Bass: revphillip@belovedcommunitydurham.org

Rev. Deacon Dan Laird: deacon@belovedcommunitydurham.org

Jeremy Clos: formation@belovedcommunitydurham.org