



Sunday, June 14, 2026

Third Sunday After Pentecost

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.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Gathering the Community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Opening Song

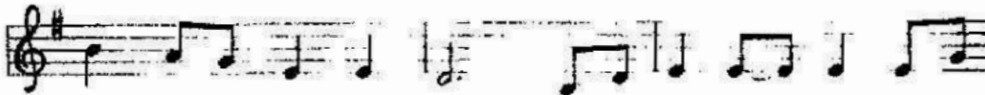
JUSTICE, PEACE

723

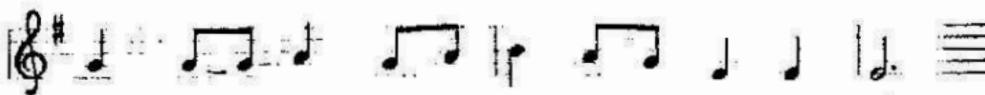
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the far - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait,
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser- vant's plight, and my
 Your ver- y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun- gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav- ing word that our fore- bears heard is the

weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev- er earn; there are ta- bles spread, ev- 'ry
 prom- ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a- bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a- bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a- bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn- ing the world a- round.

Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus- tice burn.

Wipe a- way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a- bout to turn.

Blessing of the Water

From the Book of Common Prayer

Reader We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant Now bless this water, we pray you, that it may be a sign to us of our Baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

From the Anglican Church of Australia

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon We come by the grace of the one God, creator of beauty, lover of justice.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Deacon We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, one with us in sorrow and in joy.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Deacon We are one in the Spirit who fills the Church, breath of life, making all things new.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Deacon Come and worship the holy and glorious Trinity, as we pray together:

People **God of the feast,
your Wisdom calls us,
your Word teaches us and you feed us with your life.
Give us grace to welcome one another
as you have welcomed us in Christ Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

The Collect

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And within you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ Shiphrah and Puah / Mary's Song

The First Reading

Exodus 1:8-22 ~ NRSVUE

Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Psalm

Psalm 113

Praise the LORD!

**Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.**

Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.**

The LORD is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens.

**Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,**

who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust

and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectionary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?

During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

A Feminist Apostles Creed

People

I believe in God, our Mother Bear, source of all being.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's wisdom made flesh,
along with Sophia, the church, and all that live in wisdom.
Born of the bad-ass womanist liberation theologian, Mary,
suffered under the systems of oppression of this world,
was crucified, died, and was buried,
forever joining in solidarity with those murdered by Empire.
On the third day, the women declared him risen;
signifying God's "No" to oppression.
He points to God our Mother Bear,
who works in this world, calling for justice for the poor and oppressed.**

**I believe in Sophia Spirit,
Christ's body, the church,
the communion of saints,
the grace to reject this world's systems,
hope for justice in the future,
and renewed life everlasting. 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 Alayna, Anthony, Billy, Bob, Chris, Gregory, Kerry, Marie, Maureen, Nikki,

and Susan.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

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 peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon We remember that the Lord Jesus died to take away our sins.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

Deacon Let us confess our sins to the God who knows us through and through.

People **Holy God, we have disobeyed your commandments,
we have resisted your call,
we have failed to live by your generous love.
We are sorry for all our sins,
and ask you to forgive us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant God who has called us is faithful,
and will not remember our sins.

Your sins are forgiven,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Live by the Spirit's transforming power,
and forgive as you have been forgiven. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

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, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

Music for Preparation

Let Us Break Bread Together

Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #152

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Let Us Break Bread Together'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is arranged in two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are provided for two parts: Part 1 (soprano/tenor) and Part 2 (alto/bass). The lyrics are: '1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our' and '2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line.

1. knees).
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh— Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord,

People **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

From The Anglican Church of Canada, Eucharistic Prayer 2

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Eternal God, Source of all being,
we give you thanks and praise
for your faithful love.
You call us into friendship
with you and one another
to be your holy people,
a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us,
unfailingly you remain with us.
When we injure others,
you confront us in your love
and call us to the paths of righteousness.
You stand with the weak,
and those, broken and alone,
whom you have always welcomed home,
making the first last, and the last first.
Therefore we raise our voices
with angels and archangels,
forever praising you and saying:

All

**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

Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.
When Joseph was sold into bondage,
you turned malice to your people's good.
When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness
into the promised land.
When your people were taken into exile
you wept with them by the river of Babylon
and carried them home.

People

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Celebrant

At the right time you sent your Anointed One
to stand with the poor,
the outcast, and the oppressed.
Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.

He accepted water from a woman of Samaria
and offered her the water of new life.
Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity
into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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.”

Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ’s death and resurrection,
we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow
and the wine of the age to come.
Therefore we proclaim our hope.

People

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Celebrant

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace.
We hold before you
all whose lives are marked by suffering,
our Beloved siblings.
When we are broken and cast aside,
embrace us in your love.

People

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Celebrant

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life,
now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Womanist Lord's Prayer, Rev. Yolanda Norton

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ
has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All

**Our Mother,
who is in heaven and within us,
we call upon your names.
Your wisdom come,
Your will be done,
in all the spaces in which you dwell.
Give us each day
sustenance and perseverance.
Remind us of our limits
as we give grace to the limits of others.
Separate us from the temptation of empire,
and deliver us into community.
For you are the dwelling place within us,
the empowerment around us
and the celebration among us,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant

"I am the bread which has come down from
heaven," says the Lord.

All

Give us this bread for ever.

Celebrant

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

All

May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

People

Thanks be to God.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All your works praise you, O Lord.

All **And your faithful servants bless you.**

Gracious God

we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son

Jesus Christ.

May we, who share his body,

live his risen life;

we, who drink his cup,

bring life to others;

we, whom the Spirit lights,

give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so that we and all your children shall be free,

and the whole earth live to praise your name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant Beloved, remember, 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

Deacon Bless the food that you have made, and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !**

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

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

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 financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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Mary: Love Forever Being Born