



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Twelfth 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.”

Blessing of the Water

Adapted from The Anglican Church of Australia

Reader We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit. Through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

And now we give you thanks that you have called us to a new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Celebrant Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be

made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Opening Song

As we gather at your table

Wonder Love and Praise, #763

1. As we gath - er at your
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to

Ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word, help us
wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life; send us

know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be
forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is

stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we
strife. Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for -

The musical score is written for a voice and piano. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody.

claim it as our own; teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; may we still be - hold your

ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age in the world you died to save. *to verse 3*

Optional Descant

3. Gra - cious Spi - rit, help us
3. Gra - cious Spi - rit, help us

sum - mon oth - er guests to share that Feast where tri -
sum - mon oth - er guests to share that Feast where tri -

um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and

um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and

least. There no more will en - vy blind us nor will

least. There no more will en - vy blind us nor will

(Ped.)

pride our peace des - troy, as we join with saints and

pride our peace des - troy, as we join with saints and

an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God!
 Almighty Creator, incarnate Word, abiding Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's presence, now and forever.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
 and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of
 our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
 perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

The Collect

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And within you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Reader A reading from Jeremiah.

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me,
and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?
They did not say, "Where is the LORD
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?"
I brought you into a plentiful land

to eat its fruits and its good things.
 But when you entered you defiled my land,
 and made my heritage an abomination.
 The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?"
 Those who handle the law did not know me;
 the rulers transgressed against me;
 the prophets prophesied by Baal,
 and went after things that do not profit.
 Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD,
 and I accuse your children's children.
 Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look,
 send to Kedar and examine with care;
 see if there has ever been such a thing.
 Has a nation changed its gods,
 even though they are no gods?
 But my people have changed their glory
 for something that does not profit.
 Be appalled, O heavens, at this,
 be shocked, be utterly desolate,
 says the LORD,
 for my people have committed two evils:
 they have forsaken me,
 the fountain of living water,
 and dug out cisterns for themselves,
 cracked cisterns
 that can hold no water.

Reader The words of holy scripture.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Psalter

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Sing with joy to God our strength *
 and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

**I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, *
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**

And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
and Israel would not obey me.

**So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
to follow their own devices.**

Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
that Israel would walk in my ways!

**I should soon subdue their enemies *
and turn my hand against their foes.**

Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.

**But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Reader A reading from Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Reader The words of holy scripture.

People

Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Deacon

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, O Lord.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Deacon

The good news of our Savior.

People

Praise be to Christ.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

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?*

The Nicene Creed

People

We believe –

In the One God:

Source of all,

ruler of all,

maker of heaven and earth:

of all things seen or unseen.

And in one Lord:

Jesus of Nazareth,

Christ the Messiah,

the only-born Word of God;

eternally issued of that of the One:

God of God, light of light, true God of true God;

issued, not made:

the same being as the One;

and through whom all things are made;

That for us mortals

and for our salvation

came down from heaven;

and was made flesh

of the Holy Spirit

and the Virgin Mary;

and became human;

Was also crucified, for our sake,

under the reign of Pontius Pilate:

and suffered, and was buried;

and arose on the third day,

in accordance with the scriptures,

and went back up into heaven;

and sits in power beside the One:

and shall come again, in glory,

to judge those living and dead;

and whose presence shall have no end.

And we believe in the Spirit:

the Holy,
the Lord,
and the lifegiving;
that pours forth of that of the One:
that with One and Word together
we worship and glorify as God;
that speaks in the prophets.
In one holy, universal, and missionary church:
we accept one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;
we await the raising of the dead,
and the life of the age soon 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, Gregory, Maureen, Patty, and Paul.

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.

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, our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Therefore let us confess our sins to almighty God.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

People **Almighty and most merciful God;
maker of all, judge of all:
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We are deeply sorry and we earnestly repent.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Lord,
for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ:
Forgive us our sins.
And grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please you in newness of life;
to delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the honor and glory of your name.
Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant May almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and
deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Christ
our Savior. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant May the peace of God be ever with you!
People **And within 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.

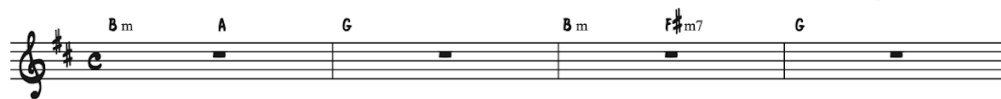
Music for Preparation

All Belong Here

as recorded by The Many

Lead Sheet

Lyrics by Lenora Rand
Music by Hannah Rand



Verse 1

Verse 1 musical staff with chords: B m, A, G, B m, F#m7, G, G, B m, F#m7, G, G, A, B m, A/C#.

When you're not sure who you real - ly are, When all you feel is the
shape of your scars, And you have more wounds than you can count, O - pen your
eyes, look all a - round, You aren't a - lone, this is your home.

Chorus

Chorus musical staff with chords: D, B m7, G, A, D, B m7, G.

Come and re - mem - ber who you are here. Do this to — re - mem - ber who I
am. Come and re - mem - ber you be - long here. All be - long here.

2nd time to Bridge last time hold on G chord



Verse 2

Verse 2 musical staff with chords: B m, A, G, B m, F#m7, G, G, B m7, F#m7, G, G, A, B m7, A/C#.

When you don't know how to for - give, — When locked doors seem like the
on - ly way to live, And you've got more ques - tions than you can count, O - pen your
eyes, look all a - round, You aren't a - lone, this is your home.

Bridge

Bridge musical staff with chords: G, A sus, B m, F#m7, G, G, A sus, B m, A, G.

At — this ta - ble — come as you are, bro - ken and bleed - ing's o - k. —
At — this ta - ble — eat and be filled, come — and drink in this grace. — *to Chorus*

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

Eucharistic Prayer H

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And within you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is good and right that we do so.**

Celebrant It is very good, right, and our joyful task, always and everywhere
to lift thanks up to you, O Lord, our holy Creator, almighty, everlasting God.

For you alone are the one God, the font of all being and the form of all good,
resting beyond time and forever.

That through Christ your eternal Word brings all things into being: sun, moon and stars;
earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. That makes all that is made, and breathes
life into the earth.

And so raising our voices with angels and archangels and all the chorus of heaven who
forever exalt your glory, we praise you rejoicing as we say:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God of all power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory;

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Celebrant Most holy and gracious God, in your infinite love you made us in your own image.

And when we fell into sin and met with evil and death, you did not abandon us. For you are the Lord our God. You called your people as a light to the nations. You led them out of bondage and into a new land. You handed down the law, and spoke in the prophets.

And then, in the fullness of time, you in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Word, to be born for our sake: to live and die as one of us; to reconcile us to you. Born of a woman, of our very nature, Jesus taught the law, healed the sick, and fed the poor.

And when the time had come, Jesus stretched out arms upon the cross, and died for our salvation. Almighty God, in Christ you bring us out of error into truth, out of sin into grace, out of death into life.

For in the night before God died for us, Jesus took bread; and after giving thanks, our Lord broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, the Lord gave it to them, saying, "Drink of this, all of you: for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and the many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore O God our heavenly Maker, offering to you your own from your own, we here celebrate the sacrament of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

And we beg you, most merciful God, to hear us, and of your almighty goodness to pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, to bless and sanctify these your creations of bread and wine: that they may be to us the body and blood of your only-born Word, our Saviour Jesus Christ; and that we receiving them may share in that most blessed presence; so that we, and all those who share in your holy communion, may be filled with your grace and heavenly blessing, and in pure love and charity be made one body with Christ our Savior: that Christ may live in us, and we in Christ.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, our almighty Creator, time without end. **Amen!**

Celebrant And now as our Savior has taught us, let us pray:

Celebrant and People

Our Lord that is in heaven:

blessed be your name.

Your dominion come:

your will be done

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us today our next day's bread:

and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And leave us not prey to temptation:

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! The bread of life!

People **Alleluia!**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God!

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and

feed on God in your heart 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, light a prayer candle, or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Taize & Contemplation

The Kingdom of God

Musical score for 'The Kingdom of God' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: 'The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly'. The second system starts with a '4' in the bass staff and continues with lyrics: 'Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The'. Chord symbols are written above the treble staff: Em, C, Am, G, D, G, D, C in the first system; Am/C, D, G, C, Em, Am, G, D, Bm, Em, D, G in the second system.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

We thank you, God,
for all the blessings of this table:
for the life-giving story, the living bread
and the wine of new creation.

People **Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words
and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Celebrant God who has called you is faithful.
Go into the world with joy,
forgive generously,
love extravagantly,
live abundantly.

The Blessing

Celebrant 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 in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !
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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