



## Holy Trinity Church

446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550  
*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts*

### The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 15, 2023

9:30-10:15am VBS Downstairs

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Parish Meeting  
in the Parish Hall

**Crafts for Children in the parish hall after the service**

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]*

Rev. Dr. Judith Lee *Presider & Preacher*

Anne Bouvier-Monroe, *Musician*

Tamsin Lucey, *Eucharistic Minister*

Laura Gervais, *Reader*

#### VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light burns to the Glory of God in memory of Colombo & Margaret DiSalvatore. Given by Joe DiSalvatore

#### FLOWERS

In thanksgiving to God for Jason as he celebrates his birthday. Given by Lorraine Brumskine

**Prelude**      *Make me a Channel of Your Peace*

Temple; setting by Douglas Wagner

**Opening Hymn**      *Christ whose Glory fills the skies*

**Hymnal #7**

**Insert**

#### **A Litany for the Restoration of Peace the Holy Land in unison**

God of peace, we pray for the people of Palestine and Israel in these perilous and dangerous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves,

**we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them.**

**Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.**

For all who are wounded, **we pray they find healing.**

For all who have died, **we pray they find rest.**

For all who grieve, **we pray they find comfort.**

For leaders on all sides, **we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.**

God of mercy, **help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.**

God of justice, **we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.**

**We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

*– American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem [www.afedj.org/litanyforpeace](http://www.afedj.org/litanyforpeace)*

**Salutation**      All that we are is a gift from God.      **The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,**

All that we have is a gift from God. **The world, and those who live in it.**

**Collect for Stewardship Season**      *in unison*

**Abundant God, you made us in your image and breathed in us a spirit of generosity that is both gift and response. Move us, we pray, to give as we have received—abundantly, generously, and joyfully, that our common ministry may ever bear witness to your unfailing grace. In the name of the Three in whom we are One. Amen.**

**Song of Praise      A Song of Judith      [Judith 16:13-16]**

**I will sing a new song to my God, \***

**for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.**

**Let the whole creation serve you, \* for you spoke and all things came into being.**

**You sent your breath and it formed them, \* no one is able to resist your voice.**

**Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, \* rocks melt like wax at your presence.**

**But to those who revere you, \* you continue to show mercy.**

**Even the most fragrant sacrifice is a small thing to you,**

**And the fat of a single burnt offering is but a trifle.**

**but worshipping you in reverence is the greatest gift of all.**

**Collect for peace among nations**

**The Lord be with you.      And always with you.      Let us pray.    *in unison***

**Almighty God, our heavenly father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**The First Reading: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [25:1-9]**

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**The Word of the Lord.    Thanks be to God.**

*Silence*

**Psalm 23      *Dominus regit me***

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \* and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. \

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Silence*

## **Stewardship Reflection**

Tricia O'Brien-Briere

## **Sequence Hymn** *Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven*

*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness*

*And all these things shall be added unto you*

*Alleluia Alleluia*

*Refrain: Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you Seek and ye shall find*

*Knock and the door shall be opened unto you*

*Alleluia Alleluia*

*Refrain: Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia*

## **The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew [18:22:1-14]**

### **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Christ**

## **Homily**

The Rev. Judith Lee

## **Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant**

*Priest*

Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Priest* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Priest* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Priest* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

### **Prayers of the People: Stewardship**

Recognizing that our gifts are miracles that enable our ministry, serve our neighbors, and strengthen our community, we offer our intentions, petitions, and thanksgivings to God.

I ask your prayers for the Church, the inspiration and inheritance of our gifts of wealth, works, and wisdom. Pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Douglas our Diocesan Bishop, and all other ministers in the Church. *Silence*

When we give out of our abundance, **There is always more than enough.**

I ask your prayers for the world, your greatest miracle. May we who inherit this earth be wise stewards of Creation and kind caretakers of all your creatures. I ask your prayers for those who lead our nation: for Joseph, our President; for our legislative and judicial institutions, and for the representatives of our local government. May they use the plentiful resources they steward to care for the people of the world.

*Silence*

When we give out of our abundance, **There is always more than enough.**

I ask your prayers for our neighbors and all who need or request our prayers. For those who are marginalized and oppressed; those who are sick and those who are dying; for the lonely and isolated; for those who are suffering; and for those who sleep on our streets. We pray for all whose needs are known only to you, for everyone on our prayer list, and for family and friends we name now silently or aloud.

*Silence*

When we give out of our abundance, **There is always more than enough.**

I ask your prayers for those who have died. May they forever gather at your table of plenty, sharing their gifts with love and joy, especially those we now name, silently or aloud. *Silence*

When we give out of our abundance, **There is always more than enough.**

As the crowd gathered to hear Jesus preach and share two fish and five loaves, they discovered that when their gifts were blessed, they increased and became a blessing to others. We give you thanks for the miracles and blessings in our lives. *Silence*

When we give out of our abundance, **There is always more than enough.**

**Concluding Collect.** *Let us say together*

**May we reach within ourselves to share our gifts with each other so that our love overflows in a need-filled world. These and all things we ask in the name of Your Son. Amen.**

**Prayer for the Parish: Stewardship**

**O God of abundance, Creator of all, help us to live with grateful hearts and an awareness of those around us. Let us see that when we are good stewards of this earth, we are caring for our neighbors, near and far. It is not easy. We sometimes make poor decisions and often forget that all human beings are imperfect creatures who are loved by You. Help us to notice the small bits of beauty and goodness around us and show us how they can grow as we build strong communities that work together. All this we ask in Jesus' name. AMEN**

**Announcements & “God moments”**

**Blessing of our UTO Offering**

**Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through the One who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen**

### **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Music:** *On Eagle's Wings* Joncas, setting by Douglas Wagner

**Presentation Hymn:** **Hymnal #380 vs. 3 only**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; / Praise him all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above, ye heavenly host; / Praise Father, son, and Holy Ghost.*

**Eucharistic Prayer**

*[Enriching Our Worship: Eucharistic Prayer 2]*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**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.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Let us say together the prayer that Christ taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Fraction**

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

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

**Music during Communion:**      *Fairest Lord Jesus*      Crusader Hymn, arr. by B. Slagle

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**    *in unison*

**God of Abundance and Grace, by the provision of this feast, the Sacrament of our Savior Jesus Christ, You have united us together in purpose and place. May we who have gathered and broken bread now share the living Word, being rooted in Abundance, serving you with joy and steadfast faith, through Jesus Christ, our head. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**      *Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah*      **Hymnal #690**      **Insert**

**Postlude**      *Sing a new song*      Schutte, setting by Douglas Wagner

*Music reprinted and streamed under Onelicense.net #A722242*

### **Announcements**

**Today: UTO Ingathering:** Please make your check payable to Holy Trinity Episcopal church with “UTO Offering” on the memo line or put your cash offering in a designated envelope that can be found on the back table. You may bring your offering to the office this week, and our final opportunity will be net Sunday. Our offering will be added to the diocesan offering at the Diocesan Convention on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Pastoral Letter from the Bishop:** Attached please find a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop on Atonement and Reparations for our legacy of slavery and racism.

**Prayer Partners:** Please take a card from the basket and pray for that person each day this week. Please feel free to take a card to give to any family members who are not here today so they can have a prayer partner.

**The Mission and Outreach Committee will be meeting next Sunday: October 22<sup>nd</sup>** after the service. The committee is tasked with determining the ministries who will be recipients of our mission plate offerings in 2024. All mission plate funds (donations) must be made to authorized charities (501c3, not for-profit organizations). We are petitioning parishioners for suggestions of authorized charities to send our mission plate funds to in the upcoming year. We value your suggestions; they will be brought to the committee. Also, we are looking for new members to join the committee. If interested, please contact any of our committee members: Lorraine Brumskine, Laura Gervais, Susan Grant, Susan Howland, Suzy Sharp, and Robin Yates. Blessings, Sue Grant

**HTEC Reading Group:** Since we were unable to meet for discussion in September, we will continue reading *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, by Nabeel Qureshi. We will meet for discussion on **Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5 pm.**

**Lunch & Learn: This Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am – 1pm. The Gospel of Thomas**  
The Gospel of Thomas is a collection of sayings by Jesus; about half are included in the canonical

gospels. They give us insight into the diversity of early Christianity in regions where the focus was on Jesus' teachings more than on his death and resurrection. A copy of the sayings is available on the table in the back of the hall. Bring your lunch and your curiosity for an interesting discussion.

***The Chosen:*** We will meet to watch and discuss Episode 2 of Season 1 on **Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm at Bethlehem Lutheran**. We will have a light supper of bread and dessert. Please join us even if you were not able to come last month. The episodes can be seen on Amazon, Netflix, and [www.angel.com](http://www.angel.com).

**Mission Plate for October:** Our donations will go to Episcopal Relief and Development for disaster relief for the people of Maui.

**Food Pantry:** Our October donations will be spices for holiday cooking and will go to the Bridge Fridge in Southbridge.

**Family Fun formation – Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30-11:30 am @ Bethlehem Lutheran** – Please let Eileen DeMings know if you and your family will participate, or if you would like to donate supplies or food for the activities.

### **Vestry Highlights: Wednesday October 11, 2023**

#### **Resolved:**

- ✓ Accepted the 2023 Staff Reviews
- ✓ Designated Roselda's Kitchen at the First United Methodist Church of Southbridge to receive the Free Will Offering for the Blue Shades Clarinets Concert on December 10<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Agreed to support the Girl Scout Troop project for Samaritan's Purse
- ✓ Agreed to have our 2023 Mutual Ministry Review at our November 8<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting

#### **Discussion:**

- ✓ Discussed ways to inform the congregation about serving on Vestry and invite candidates
- ✓ Planning for the Parish meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the zoom meeting with representatives of other churches on Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Susan Howland will be the contact person for the "New Neighbors" program for residents of the Super 8 Hotel in Sturbridge
- ✓ What have we done well?  
Youth project making sandwiches for the Cathedral in the Night; prayer partner cards; Christmas cards for the military; *The Chosen* discussion group; Blessing of our pets





## It's time for our diocese to commit to healing the legacy of slavery and racism.

October 12, 2023

Friends,

I write to all the faithful of this diocese to share my pastoral perspective on our need for racial reckoning and lamentation over the historic practice of slavery. The work of repairing the damage done over the last 400 years to people of African descent is not a new concept, but our diocese has never publicly confessed our complicity in the domino effect of the sin of slavery--how owning human beings led to the amassing of tremendous wealth here in New England--wealth that has been passed down to us as the colonies became the states and the Church of England became The Episcopal Church.

I am mindful that so many of our congregations have experienced [Sacred Ground](#)--a film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. For many of us the need to speak the truth of our beloved church's role in slavery is not optional. It comes from the depths of our souls. Like The Episcopal Church, each diocese must reckon with the past and commit to a different future--to God's reign of justice.

The desire to atone for past harm is human and goes to the heart of our faith. It does not hold the living responsible for the dehumanizing practices associated with enslavement, but does challenge us to recognize the long chain of inequities that followed that horror--and that continue to this very day.

Episcopal City Mission is at the forefront of this work in the Commonwealth. ECM's laser focus on the racial wealth gap is opening minds and hearts to the economic repercussions of slavery and Jim Crow. Addressing how the evil of slavery tipped the scales through the centuries is critical to rectifying the wrong. I so admire their work and hope we can join them in this effort. But, our diocese is at the very beginning of a long conversation. We are not yet ready to act or repair. We must begin with a common cry for God's mercy as we explore our histories and own what is truth and worthy of lamentation. With this in mind, the [Beloved Community Commission](#) has proposed an initial resolution for our diocesan convention.

You can [read the resolution](#) on the convention webpage. It is important to acknowledge that this resolution is just a beginning. It calls us to "explore" our congregational histories and "explore remedies." It is a thoughtfully constructed resolution that will move us to begin this important work. I am grateful to the commission for months of study and work on this. While I commend the entire resolution, I want to make sure you hear one sentence loud and clear.

"We recommit ourselves as a Diocese to God's dream of the Beloved Community and take the next necessary steps toward restitution for the sinful legacy of racism that we have inherited."

It is true that the deep wounds of slavery will not be quickly healed. But what is also true is our responsibility as followers of Jesus to do what we can to own the sin of slavery in our past and the sin of white supremacy in our present. These two pursuits are equally necessary to make our way from the nightmare to God's dream.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Douglas Fisher".

The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher  
Bishop of Western MA