



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS JAMES AND ANDREW

### **Summer Lessons & Carols: Gospel & Hope** July 28, 2024 10:00 am

In-Person and Live-streamed

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#### **Welcome and Preparation for Worship**

Welcome to Worship! We are blessed by your presence with us today. For the Church it is Ordinary Time, so-called not because it is commonplace but because we order the Sundays after Pentecost sequentially, with numbers. While we follow the events of Jesus' life during the seasons from Advent through Pentecost, during Ordinary Time we settle in to hear Jesus' teachings and listen to stories of his interactions with the everyday people he taught and to whom he ministered.

Our liturgy is drawn primarily from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and Enriching Our Worship 1 & 2. We also frequently make use of other approved worship resources from elsewhere within the Anglican Communion, such as the Church of England, Scottish Episcopal Church, Anglican Church of Canada, and the Anglican Church in New Zealand. We believe that the use of fresh language provides us the opportunity to broaden and deepen our relationship with God. Our music is drawn primarily from the Hymnal 1982, Wonder, Love, and Praise, and Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and other approved hymnals. All materials are printed with permission using RiteSeries. Today's liturgy also draws up the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts' *Season of Creation 2022; Daily Prayer for All Seasons*; Bosco Peters; and *God's Good Earth: Praise and Prayer for Creation* by Anne and Jeffrey Rowthorn. Please note that our worship is live-streamed to Facebook.

#### **Our Mission**

We believe God is calling us to cultivate a community of love, joy, hope, and healing. Jesus is our model for a life of faith, compassion, hospitality and service. We strive to be affirming and accessible, welcoming and inclusive; we seek to promote reconciliation, exercise responsible stewardship, and embrace ancient traditions for modern lives.

## Prelude

*Spiritoso*  
Anderson Weng, piano

Muzio Clementi (1752-1832)

## Welcome

Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy

## Ringling for Remembrance

TBD

*There have been 9644 related deaths this year, of which 1584 have taken place since we reported last month. There have been 310 mass shootings so far this year. This data was taken from the Gun Violence Archive on July 24, 2024.*

## Opening Hymn

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Robert Lowry

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Chorus: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day (chorus)

3. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down  
Grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown (chorus)

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease  
Soon our happy heart will quiver with the melody of peace (chorus X 2)

## Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God:

We gather as the body of Christ to remember our shared hope. A hope that unites, grounds, and sustains us in the Love of God as made known to us in Christ Jesus. We pray to the Spirit of Life and Love to be with us in this time, as people suffer, as parents grieve, as violence rages. To be with all who feel the pain of loss, who feel anger at injustice.

We pray that in remembering our shared hope, we will stand with the oppressed and change the heart of the oppressor. For we know that both oppressed and oppressor are joined in their humanity, no matter how often we forget it. Help us to remember the hope we had, the hope we have, and the hope we will have. Help us to remember joy in the midst of sadness, success in the midst of challenge, and opportunities in the seemingly impossible.

Life Giving Spirit, set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

A reading from Lamentations.

My soul is bereft of peace;  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
so I say, 'Gone is my glory,  
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.'  
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
is wormwood and gall!  
My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

Here ends the reading.

*Amazing Grace* John Newton/Virginia Harmony

1. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. Thru many dangers toils and snares, I have already come  
tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, His words my hope secure  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

**Second Reading**     *A Song of Christ's Goodness.* Anselm of Canterbury

Fred Momaney

A reading from Anselm of Canterbury.

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.  
May your love prepare us for the beauty of heaven.

Here ends the reading.

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

Traditional/Spiritual

(chorus) There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my works in vain  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (chorus)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot preach like Paul  
You can tell the love of Jesus, and say He died for all. (chorus)

Don't ever be discouraged for Jesus is your friend  
And if you lack for knowledge, He'll ne'er refuse to lend. (chorus)

**Third Reading**     Rachel Held Evans, *Wholehearted Faith*

Elyse Moore

A reading from Rachel Held Evans.

For better or for worse, there are seasons when we hold our faith, and then there are seasons when our faith holds us. In those latter instances, I am more thankful than ever for all the saints, past and present, who said yes and whose faith sustains mine. They believe for me when I am not sure I believe. They hold on to hope for me when I've run out of hope. They are the old lady next to me in the pew and the little kid behind me who recite the entirety of the Apostles' Creed on my behalf on those Sundays when I cannot bring myself to say all those ancient words wholeheartedly.

Here ends the reading.

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole wide world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the itty bitty baby in His hands...

He's got you and me in His hands....

He's got everybody here in His hands...

He's got the whole world in His hands...

#### **Fourth Reading**

Paul Hawken, Environmental Activist

Julie Orvis

A reading from Paul Hawken's 2009 commencement address to the University of Portland:

What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world. The poet Adrienne Rich wrote, "My heart is moved by all I cannot save: so much has been destroyed. I cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world." Humanity is coalescing. It is reconstituting the world, and the action is taking place in classrooms, farms, jungles, villages, campuses, companies, refugee camps, deserts, fisheries, and slums.

You join a multitude of caring people. No one knows how many are working on the most salient issues of our day: climate change, poverty, deforestation, peace, water, hunger, conservation, human rights, and more. This is the largest movement the world has ever seen.

The generations before you failed. They got distracted and lost sight of the fact that life is a miracle every moment of existence. Nature beckons you to be on her side. The most unrealistic person in the world is the cynic, not the dreamer. Hope makes sense only when it doesn't make sense to be hopeful. Take it and run with it as if your life depends on it.

Here ends the reading.

#### **Collect**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of hope, from you comes every blessing and all peace: Show us that, in the midst of our struggles, you are with us. Give us the abundance of your grace that we may do the work you give us to do and that we may be for the world a sign of your presence; through Christ, the Way and the Truth. **Amen.**

## Homily

Charlie Houghton

## Silence for Reflection

## Litany of Hope

Kathryn

*Composed by the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, Honduras*

To have hope  
**is to believe that history continues open to the dream of God and to human creativity.**

To have hope  
**is to continue affirming that it is possible to dream a different world, without hunger, without injustice, without discrimination.**

To have hope  
**is to be a messenger of God, tearing down walls, destroying borders, building bridges.**

To have hope  
**is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith and the possibility of peace.**

To have hope  
**is to leave the door open so that the Spirit can enter and make all things new.**

To have hope  
**is to believe that life wins over death.**

To have hope  
**is to begin again as many times as necessary.**

To have hope  
**is to believe that hope is not the last thing that dies.**

To have hope  
**is to believe that hope cannot die, that hope no longer dies.**

To have hope  
**is to live.**

We also remember those who have asked for our prayers, especially John, Sally Ann, Don, Steve, Ed, Kirsten, Rose, Bernie, Angel, Ann, June, Cody, Jillian, Elizabeth, Carson, Tim, and Margie. At this time, I invite your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession either silently, aloud, or in the comment section of our virtual worship.

### *Silence*

Almighty God, give us such a vision of your purpose and such an assurance of your love and power, that we may ever hold fast the hope which is in Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

## Exchange of Peace

*Having received God's word of hope and new life, we share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The peace of God be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Collection of Gifts and Offerings

*Your financial gift makes a difference. It supports our mission and ministry; our outreach programs; and provides the necessary resources to care for our church campus, enabling us to share our sacred space with the wider community. To give electronically text "Give" (978) 525-0712. Your gifts of non-perishable food items and large paper bags support our contribution to the Survival Center and our feeding ministries. These items may be placed in the baskets in the Narthex (church entry).*

### Offertory Hymn

*Good News*

Traditional/Spiritual

I got a robe up in-a the kingdom ain'a that good news,  
I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom ain'a that good news,  
I'm a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross,  
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus ain'a that good news.

I got a crown...

I got a Savior...

I got a robe...

## Closing Prayer

*Composed by Janet Lees*

Let us pray:

Creator of mists and mystery: you roll away the stones to open us to your life, to let your story shine out in all the world. Give us hope, living God - hope in our hands to open doors; hope in our eyes to see possibilities; hope in our hearts to live by faith. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, the hope of the world. **Amen**

## Announcements *(see back pages)*

### Closing Hymn

*This Little Light of Mine*

Traditional/Spiritual

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Deep down in my heart....

Everywhere I go...

## Dismissal

Let us go in peace.

**We go into the world  
to walk in God's light  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

## Postlude

*Evening in the Country*  
Anderson Weng, piano

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

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## Prayer List

*Names are on the list for 6 weeks, then removed. Feel free to add a name again.*

John, Sally Ann, Don, Steve, Ed, Kirsten, Rose, Bernie, Angel, Ann, June, Cody, Jillian, Elizabeth, Carson, Tim, and Margie

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## Announcements

### Many Thanks to this morning's musicians

Thanks to "A Wing and a Prayer" for providing music for this morning's hymns. Participating were:

Diane Kurkulonis, mandolin  
Marcia Day, guitar  
Ted Thornton, guitar  
Patter Field, ukulele  
Fred Momany, bass  
Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy, ukulele

Thank you also to pianist Anderson Weng and his teacher Bruce Griffin for today's Prelude and Postlude.

### Today - Ringing for Remembrance & Prayers for Peace:

On the last Sunday of each month we grieve the continuing epidemic of gun violence in our country and also pray for peace wherever there is strife, violence, and war in God's world. .

-The celebrant will begin the service by sharing the number of persons lost to gun violence since the previous month (using data from [Gun Violence Archive](#)), and we will toll the bell for one minute as we remember, grieve, and pray for victims of gun violence.

-The prayers of the people will focus on praying for peace and justice. Sometimes they will be focused on a specific conflict or on a particular concern of violence and oppression (gun violence, racism, etc.). This is something new we are experimenting with through the fall, and welcome your feedback.



-For a more active response to the reality of gun violence and other forms of violence in God's world, we encourage you to [sign up with The Episcopal Public Policy Network](#) to receive 'action alerts' with directions for encouraging our congressional representatives to take specific positions on legislation involving social justice issues.

### **August 12 at 5:30 p.m. - Gardeners Wanted**

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just starting out, please join us as we tend to the gardens at SsJA. We meet outside near the shed and Gardening occurs at 5:30pm - 6:30pm. If you have garden tools, feel free to bring them. We still meet if it is a light sprinkle, but if it is raining, that week's gardening is canceled. If you are not able to make these dates/times but are interested in helping out on your own time, you are welcomed to garden at a time that is more convenient for you. Future gathering dates: August 12, September 16, October 7. (Jason Blais at [jason.j.blais@gmail.com](mailto:jason.j.blais@gmail.com)).

### **August 17 at 4 p.m. - Celebration of Life for Ced Bannister**

We will celebrate the life of parishioner Ced Bannister on Saturday, August 17 at 4 p.m. with a concert, followed by a service, followed by a reception.

### **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

Please note our live streamed service of Morning Prayer is on hiatus until August.

### **Friendly Pledge Reminder:**

Often in the summer folks have different routines, and as a result pledge donations are not always sent into the church in the same timely manner. We encourage folks to please continue sending their pledge donations so we can stay on target with our budget. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support this parish with donations of time, talent, and treasure. Your generosity is what makes the mission and ministry of this parish possible.

### **Large Grocery Bags for Outreach Ministries**

Your contributions have been much appreciated; please keep them coming. We need LARGE paper grocery bags. You can leave them in the church narthex, near the office, or near the elevator in the parish hall building. Thank you!! -from the Mission Team

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### **The Episcopal Church of Ss. James & Andrew**

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### **Clergy**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop

The Rev. Heather J. Blais, Rector

The Rev. Jimmy Pickett, Missioner

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Closed Holidays)