

Trinity Episcopal Church
The Rev. H. Miller Hunter, Jr., Rector

July 12, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Organ Prelude: *The Peaceable Things*

Clay Christiansen

The Hymnal 1982 - #48 O day of radiant gladness

1 O day of ra - diant glad - ness, O day of joy and
2 This day at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, his Ho - ly Scrip - ture
4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, we walk the pil - grim

light, O balm of care and sad - ness, most
birth; this day for our sal - va - tion Christ
hear; his liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through
way, at length our rest at - tain - ing, our

beau - ti - ful, most bright; this day the high and
rose from depths of earth; this day our Lord vic -
Bread and Wine made near. We jour - ney on, be -
end - less Sab - bath day. We sing to thee our

low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune, sing,
to - rious the Spi - rit sent from heaven, and
liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might, from
prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son; the

“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,” to the great God Tri - une.
 thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.
 grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blest day of light.
 Church her voice up - rais - es to thee, blest Three in One.

Words: Sts. 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), alt.; st. 3, Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price; st. 4, *Hymnal 1982*
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 harm. George Ratcliff Woodward (1848-1934)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
 my strength and my redeemer. *Psalms 19:14*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Officiant and People together

***Most merciful God,
 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 neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will,
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite *Psalms 95:1-7*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
 let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
 and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
 For the Lord is a great God, *
 and a great King above all gods.
 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
 and the heights of the hills are his also.
 The sea is his, for he made it, *
 and his hands have molded the dry land.
 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
 For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
 Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Psalms 119:105-112 *Lucerna pedibus meis*

Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.
 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.
 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.
 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.
 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

The Lessons

A Reading from *Genesis 25:19-34*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

9 The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

17 The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*
Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Homily

I have to say I've been enjoying the lessons that we've had before us from Genesis the past couple of weeks. We have journeyed with Abraham and Sarah as they went to a new land, as they were promised that they would have descendants as numerous as the stars. Only to have one son, a son named Isaac. Isaac which means laughter as you know because Sarah laughed when she heard the word that she would have a child in her old age. We have journeyed as Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. We have journeyed together with them as Isaac married Rebekah. And today as we continue the narrative, Isaac and Rebekah have twin sons, Esau and

Jacob. They are in every way very different. Esau is a reddish man with much hair, he's a hunter, he's the favorite of his father. Jacob on the other hand is a quiet man who loves to live in tents. He is beloved of his mother. Now the real drama comes not today but in the next chapter, as Rebekah determines that she will get her husband's blessing for not the first son but the second. Generally, it would be the first son who gets the mantle, the inheritance if you will, but in this case she schemes to have her second son receive that blessing. In a remarkable scene she puts Jacob in Esau's clothing. She even gets pellets of animal skins to put on his arms so that he has the hairy skin of his brother. She goes with him before his father, a now blind Isaac blesses not the first but the second son.

In the fury that follows, Jacob flees. Following his mother's instructions he goes to their native land to find a wife and there he encounters and falls madly in love with Rachel, the great love of his life. An arrangement was made that if he would work for Rachel's father for seven years, she would be his. And the text says that those seven years seemed like a day because his love for Rachel was so strong. And then on their wedding night the deception continues for he discovered that Leah the older sister of Rachel had been given to him as his wife. Again another conversation occurred, and if he would work just seven more years Rachel could finally be his. And so that seven years passed quickly, and Rachel his beloved was finally his wife. So Rachel, and Leah, and Jacob together, well they would have 12 sons, the 12 sons that we know as the 12 tribes of Israel. Now, if you follow this storyline carefully, it seems to me that much deception, much deceit is thick within the story this morning. But if you follow it on a different angle, it seems to me that it's also a tale of patience. Patience as three generations of one family work to fulfill their destiny to be the people of God. It's a story of deception, yes, but it's also a story of patience.

Now our second reading this morning is the Parable of the Sower. Seeds planted on rocky soil, in thorn, thorny terrain, and finally in good soil. It's the story of how difficult it is to grow anything. In fact, any of you who have ever tried to grow anything as simple as a head of lettuce, or a tomato, or even a petunia, know that growing anything is difficult, it's risky business. You plant the seed, sometimes it comes up, often it does not. Or after weeks of intense observation, watering, and care, your plant finally does come up, it lives and it starts to flourish. So that gardening like life, requires patience.

I like to think of myself as a patient person, but as I stand before you this morning I confess that for the first time this past week I've had a deep sense of impatience with the coronavirus situation that dominates everything in our lives this time, this week, and really for the last couple of months. I have a growing sense of impatience. A dear friend waited not one or two days but 10 days for a Covid test. Thanks be to God that test came back negative. But can you imagine 10 days to wait for a test result. As a country we simply don't seem to have any working strategy for testing. We don't seem to have much strategy for the care of Covid patients and certainly there's no vaccine in sight. Our cities, our towns, increasingly they seem like ghost towns and suddenly, suddenly for me at least, it just seems too much. So I am simply glad to stand this morning in this holy place. I wish deeply that you were here with me. So I stand in this place this morning to be renewed, to be refreshed, to be reminded again that I am a child of God. To be reminded again the people of God have known many struggles before. To be reminded once again that patience is a gift. It's a gift that we're all gonna need in abundance in the coming weeks and days. To be reminded perhaps most of all that God will give each of us the strength, the courage, and the fortitude that we certainly will need in the days that will be ahead. It's our prayer simply this morning that God will give each of us that strength, that courage, that patience that we will all need. Amen.

(Transcribed from sermon tape)

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

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

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
 R. **Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**
 V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
 R. **For we put our trust in you.**
 V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
 R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness
 to us and to all whom you have made.
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,
 and all the blessings of this life;
 but above all for your immeasurable love
 in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
 for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
 And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
 that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
 not only with our lips, but in our lives,
 by giving up our selves to your service,
 and by walking before you
 in holiness and righteousness all our days;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* 2 Corinthians 13:14

The Hymnal 1982 - #632 O Christ, the Word Incarnate

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
 3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
 O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), alt. Music: *Munich*, melody from *Neu-vermehrtes und zu Übung Christi, Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningisches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. and harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Blessing

Organ Postlude: *Praise to the Lord*

Paul Manz