

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
PENTECOST 33
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we celebrate that we are called once again to worship together as the family of the Creating One, we affirm that this sacred space lies on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **Together, may we walk the path of reconciliation and healing, sharing all the goodness of our land.**

Fr. Michael: Come, sing a new song to the Lord.

People: **Remember all the times filled with wonder, for God has already saved us.**

Fr. Michael: Open the windows: listen to the choir outside, voices furried and feathered.

People: **Let the hills rejoice and sing**

Fr. Michael: Our God is not done doing wonders in our midst!

People: **God is coming to set things right! Sing a new song to the Lord!**

Fr. Michael: May we enter worship under the power and guidance of the blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit.

People: **Come, let us worship**

Fr. Michael: As we move forward as people called into sacred community, we pray,

People: **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Fr. Michael: With all the blessed saints who have gone before us and with those who dwell among us on this good earth, together we say,

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us and bring us to eternal joy; through the power of him who lives and reigns with you, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: God, our kind and loving Father, you no longer call us servants but friends. There is so much that you have entrusted to us, even the future of your kingdom of justice and love. Give us grace to work out with you the growth of goodness and mercy in the world, to be united with all who seek you with sincere hearts in bringing reconciliation and healing and joy among all nations and all

peoples. Help us to walk with you, our living and loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen** (from Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration)

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah (Zephaniah 1: 7-18) Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. "On the day of the Lord's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit. "On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.' Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine." The great day of the Lord is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your love and power over all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians alike; Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear into trust, despair into hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation; that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice be experienced by all.

All: **Amen** (The Anglican Diocese of Dublin 2023)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge *

All: **from one generation to another.**

Reader: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, *

All: **from age to age you are God.**

Reader: You turn us back to the dust and say, *

All: **"Go back, O child of earth."**

Reader: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *

All: **and like a watch in the night.**

Reader: You sweep us away like a dream; *

All: **we fade away suddenly like the grass.**

Reader: In the morning it is green and flourishes; *

All: **in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Reader: For we consume away in your displeasure; *

All: **we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**

Reader: Our iniquities you have set before you, *

All: **and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

Reader: When you are angry, all our days are gone; *

All: **we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

Reader: The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; *

All: **yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Reader: Who regards the power of your wrath? *

All: **who rightly fears your indignation?**

Reader: So teach us to number our days *

All: **that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Reader: Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? *

All: **be gracious to your servants.**

Reader: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

All: **so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Reader: Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *

All: **and the years in which we suffered adversity.**

Reader: Show your servants your works *

All: **and your splendour to their children.**

Reader: May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; *

All: **prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

Reader: Eternal Father of our mortal race, in Jesus Christ your grace has come upon us. For his sake, prosper the work of our hands until he returns to gladden our hearts forever.

Reader: Our second reading is taken from Pauls' first letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O God, you are making all things new, for you have done marvellous things. When we are walking in darkness – you are there. When we are kneeling in weakness – you are there. When we come near, feeling useless – you are there. When we need forgiveness- you are there. When we are searching for your love and grace – your are there. We give thanks to you, for your are where we are.

All: **Amen**

(John Birch, adapted by RMF)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Matthew (St. Matthew 25: 14-30)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. Knowing this, we affirm our faith as we say,

All: 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.

Reader: We are glad and rejoice every day in you, O Lord. With joy, we draw deeply from your well of salvation and pray that you may fulfill our story – the story of your abiding love. Though the world has been gripped by troubles since the earliest of days, you have given us a vision of life beyond the darkness, a day when heaven and earth shall be new once again; a day when the sound of

weeping will give way to laughter and joy, and all people will enjoy the fruits of their labours. Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Help us to hold to your vision when the temples around us are falling and our world is shaken; strengthen us so that we may speak the truth and keep to your path through the desert places so that we might not be weary of doing what is right; Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: As we pray for a new heaven and a new earth, we are especially aware of those among us and of those beyond our doors who are in deep need of your healing and your peace, remembering especially Liesa, Marjorie, Beth, Randy, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Louise, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone. We pray for those who grieve and mourn, for those under stress, those who live in fear for their very lives, for those who reach out empty hands to us whose hands are so full; give us grace to see and hear their cries and respond as Jesus would. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for the Church gathered and scattered throughout the world, remembering Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, Sacred Circle, and the Ministry of Reconciliation and National Indigenous Archbishop, The Most Rev. Christopher Harper. We pray for the Church of the Epiphany, Gloucester and The Reverend Simone Hurkmans. We pray for the Diocese of Jerusalem in this time of great trial and ordeal. We pray for all those who face persecution and those deprived of the most basic of human rights. Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayers.**

Reader: Let us give thanks to the one to whom we pray, the one who brings both snow and sun; the one who heals the sick and watches over this troubled world and those who turn to God in faith; the One who gives life to all regardless of creed, colour or orientation. Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.** (Fr. Richard Fairchild posted on Kir – shalom adapted by RMF)

Fr. Michael: When we remember all the mistakes we have made, all the careless words we have spoken, all the contempt we have shown to those around us and those we love, we have trouble looking God in the eye. But God looks at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us, even as we hesitate to speak of and from the brokenness of our hearts,

People: **Again we confess, Master of the universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples and apostles. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful of misusing them and miss the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall, afraid to enter into intimacy with others. Called to be emptied for the cause of those whose lives are broken, too often we offer not our love and compassion, but scorn and judgment. Have mercy, God of the journey – have mercy on us. Your day of hope and grace has opened our eyes to see your kingdom in our midst, so that we might discover that day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus. Amen**

Fr. Michael: This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus your servant. The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God for we are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

And the peace of the living Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WE SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST WITH ONE ANOTHER

Fr. Michael: Holy God, in this Eucharist we renew our baptismal covenant. Help us, through this offering today, to renounce all things that draw us away from your love. This we ask in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: Holy God, Lover of creation, we give you thanks and praise for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts. When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us. Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah, through prophets, sages, and saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation. Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory 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.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you. Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life, Jesus knew death was near. His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Fr. Michael: Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe, upon these gifts that we bring to you: this bread, this cup, ourselves, our souls and bodies, that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of all, and we bless your holy name for ever.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted this to his Church, we pray,

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

People: **Give us this bread forever.**

Fr. Michael: "I am the vine, you are the branches".

People: **Live in us so that we may live in you.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE OF OUR NEW LIFE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, in this sacrament we have shared the body and blood of Christ. May we who have been nourished by holy things bear witness to his light, and share in his eternal priesthood, for he is Lord, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Steadfast God, as we witness the horrors and heartbreak in Israel and Palestine, we seek your comfort and your strength, your shelter and hope, your peace and blessings. Bless all those who continually attempt to live your teachings of compassion and reconciliation through humanitarian aid and advocacy for those most affected by the atrocities of war. These actions are green leaves on a withering tree, clear signs of hope, even as fear, death and grief overwhelm. Bless all who mourn, whose heartbreak and sorrow are too deep for words. In their despair, may your unshakeable roots protect them and hold them in love. Provide us all with the strength to yearn "more than those who watch for the morning" for a time when peace prevails globally and in the Middle East. Bless all who prayerfully seek a peace that leads towards abundant life for all people. Help those of us more removed from the direct conflict to care for and to support those who are most affected by the events in the Middle East and in our local communities. May we honestly wrestle with our complex emotions, biases and limited information so that we can work with others toward peace-building that is guided by justice, compassion and mercy. Together, may we anticipate a time when Palestine and Israel will be a symbol of justice, peace and liberation for all. Like an olive tree planted by water, sending out her roots by the stream, may our commitment towards a just peace in Israel and Palestine never falter; may our hope not be uprooted; may our actions bear good fruit and may our love be steadfast. Until justice and freedom comes for all, may it be so.

All: **Amen** (United Church of Canada 2023)

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Go now and tell the world what God does. Do not chase after self-proclaimed messiahs but draw deeply from God's saving well and speak the words which the Spirit gives you. Do not be weary of doing what is right. And may God delight in us and give us strength; may Jesus lead us in the ways of new life; may the Spirit give you the words and the wisdom to withstand all that would tear you down. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

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