

Augustana

Lent 2, 2021 – setting 8 ELW – February 28, 2021

My welcome and introduction of Marie Lovrod

Thanks just like on a Sunday morning when we worship together there are many who make it possible for us to worship together. Look at the end of the video for all those names.

Welcome and explanation of the service by Marie Lovrod

GREETING

As we begin our journey today: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Response: and also with you

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day

CHILDREN'S TIME – from windows

Colours

- Rainbows – remind us of God's promise to be present in our lives ... they have also come to mean more than that for us. They have also become a reminder that God's promise is for all people It is a huge welcome.
- When our rainbow windows were originally put in they were a reminder of God's promise "I will always be with you."
- What a wonderful thing to be reminded every time you come to church: look at the rainbow windows and remember God's promise "I will be with you always." That's the best sermon ever.
- But rainbows have also come to mean more than that. They remind us: that people are different from one another, sometimes they look different from each, sometimes they love differently than we do, sometimes they dress differently than we do. Then the rainbow reminds us that God's promise is for everybody.
- We are followers of Jesus and we learn from Jesus how to treat people who are different from ourselves: with welcome and love.

- So the next time you walk into this church – whenever that is – look at the windows ... the rainbow windows ... and remember that God's promise to walk with us is a promise for all people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Boundless love, you require each of us to love justice. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of God's homeland, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray, Amen

READING 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

The Ministry of Reconciliation

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are

ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of life **Thanks be to God**

Please join in singing our Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
 Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
 Save us as you promised we will trust your word.
 Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:21-28

Glory to you O Lord

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.
 The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNgWnR_6b2c&feature=youtu.be

Hymn "How Long, O God" # 698 verses 3, 4, 5 (from June 28, 2021)

Your grace, O God, seems far away; will healing ever come?
Our broken lives lie broken still; will night give way to dawn?

How can we hope? How can we sing? O God set free our voice
To name the sorrows, name the pain, that we might yet rejoice.

“How long, O God?” the psalmist cries, a cry we make our own.
Though we are lost, alone, afraid, our God will lead us home.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the Trinity + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

As a church, we believe all are welcome. We believe the Church is a place to boldly proclaim and model welcome to each and every child of God. We confess that we have not always made that statement true, and as a result, have pushed away God's beloveds from our spaces. Let us name the ways we have fallen short in extending this welcome and in justice-making for our 2SLGBTQIA+ siblings, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, women-identified people, immigrants, elderly, and those who do not have access to basic human needs.

To those who have been excluded by the church because of who they are and who they love

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who have systems created against them due to the color of their skin

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who do not have equal access to thrive due to government systems

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who do not see their identities represented in this church

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who we, the church, have called "those people"

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

Pastor: With these challenges before us. We seek forgiveness and commit ourselves to actions that will bring justice, equity, and healing to those harmed. We seek God's guidance and grace to help us to stand firmly against racism, homophobia, and transphobia.

Beloved let us remember that God's Word never fails. God's forgiveness never fails. The promise rests on grace; by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, our sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **AMEN.**

Sharing of the peace – *share the peace with those who with you now & with those you meet or talk to in the week to come.*

Prayers of Intercession

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words "God of grace" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer**". ...

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

[A brief pause]

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Bless the ministry of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Bishope Sandra Fyfe and the dean, council, and congregations of the Northern Area of the Eastern Synod. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator and endless weaver of our lives, we rejoice in your creation and its endless diversity. Your creativity and imagination create a sense of awe-filled wonder. As your care for creation is shown in its complexity and the changing of the seasons, teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. Embolden us to work for climate and creation justice to preserve our tactile connection to you through creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who walks with us, give us eyes to see you in the lives of those targeted by police violence; those kicked out of their home because of who they are and who they love; those whose families have been separated by violence and war especially all refugees; and for the excluded of whom we are yet unaware. God, you know what it is like to be cast out. May your Spirit fill us with the courage,

conviction, and dedication to work for justice knowing when we do, we are in fact caring for you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Healer and Comforter, as each day brings new wonderings about the health of our family, friends, community, and nation, we remember that you can hold all we bring to you through prayer with sacred love. With hearts of joy and lament, we bring you the names and places of your people in need especially Angie Remus and family as they mourn the death of Gordon and Lorene and family on the death of her brother-in-law ... and for Elsie, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Anna Marie, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Pastor Ted Chell, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

Give them courage and peace God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the unknown, all that you are and all that you have been is without boundaries. Open our hearts and minds to the new possibilities that surround us each day. Help us to remember that through your love we are made new with each sunrise and filled with your Spirit in every breath. May this moment of worship be a touchstone of remembrance that we have something new to see and learn. Give us space to listen and see what you are showing us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to see and love people we don't know yet, so we might continue to greet you in faith and be joyfully changed by who you are: wild and wonderfully endless in your diversity. Whisper sweet Spirited inspirations in our ears. Bless this community of faith with challenges to grow us, care to wrap us up when we are wounded, and an abiding fire for the justice you are bringing. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and a Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WALK FROM SYRIA UPDATE

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

You are what God made you to be; created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbour. God bless you that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **AMEN**

Go in peace to love and service the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

SENDING SONG # 717 'Let Justice Flow Like Streams'

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,
an everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

THANKS

Guest Preacher: Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director of Reconciliation Matters

Worship Assistant: Eileen & Wayne Carlson, Marie Lovrod

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Bryan Tastad & Greg Fowlie-Neufeld

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