

September 20, 2020

Outdoor Worship Service



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

61 West Deane Park Drive

Etobicoke, ON M9B 2S1

416.622.5577

stphilip@bellnet.ca

www.stphilipstoronto.com

Facebook: St Philip's Lutheran Church

Instagram: @stphilipslutheran

Twitter: @SPLCOnline

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
September 20, 2020

Gathering

Welcome

Prelude

Greeting **P:** God is our refuge and strength.
C: **A very present help in trouble.**

P: Therefore we will not fear.
C: **Thought the earth should change,
Though the corona virus has its way.**

P: The God of hosts is with us.
C: **The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
C: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving **P:** We gather with gratitude for the land, the air we breathe, and the
for Baptism water that sustains all life;
We give thanks for the opportunity to gather as community in our
place of worship
where we remember who we are:
C: **created in the image of God, Source of life and love,
joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
and set free by the Spirit to be God's healing in the world.**

P: But our hearts are filled with more than gratitude --
it is not as it was before the pandemic:
C: **We come, tentatively, uncertain about our worship
practices and the future,**

We know in a new way our deep interconnectedness with all of creation,

We know better the vulnerabilities of neighbours far and near.

P: Truthfully, the assurance of Your presence within our breath and body seems distant when we cannot sing, or hug the children, or share the peace.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Resonate in our bodies.

Touch our hearts. End the virus!

P: As we cry out and make our prayers this day:

C: Be our refuge and strength,

Be a very present help in these pandemic days.

P: Widen our imagination with your large vision
Equip us to courageously participate in your very present help,
to be a refuge and strength in our hurting world.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn *“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?”*

ELW 659
(please see page 9)

Prayer of the Day Eternal God, your loving presence has surrounded us throughout this challenging season of pandemic. As we, at long last, re-enter our church buildings and reunite with one another in worship, we pray for your continuing grace, guidance and comfort. Encourage and equip us, give us wisdom and insight, keep our hearts and minds peaceful. Teach us to recognize our safe spaces and liturgies as a powerful witness to our love for our neighbours and one another. As we once again physically gather in your name, however strange and unsettling our new practices may seem at first, help us remember our faithful worship will always be holy, always pleasing to you. All this, and whatever else you see that we need, we ask in the name of Jesus, Immanuel, ‘God-with-us’. **Amen.**

First Reading **Exodus 16: 2 – 15**

Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites longed for life back in Egypt and wished they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gave them quails and manna to eat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.” ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’” ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost

on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm
103: 1 - 8

¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s | holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God’s benefits—

³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R

⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle’s.

⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.

⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

Gospel Matthew 20: 1 - 16

Jesus tells a parable about God’s generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and

about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Pastor Tuula Van Gaasbeek

**Hymn of
the Day** *"In Thee is Gladness"*

ELW 867
(please see page 10)

**Affirmation
of Faith** *I believe in God, who has created all life and continues to create new life within me. I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By his life, his death and his resurrection from the grave, I can know the true depth of human possibility and experience the true joy of abundant life. I believe the Holy Spirit is present now and always, calling me to faith, giving me gifts, and empowering me for service. I believe the church is the community of faith called to experience the fullness of life through God's Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Prayers of Intercession As we gather together today in this new way, let us pray for God's grace and peace saying:

Spirit of comfort and counsel, mend and mold us for Your healing Reign.

God of all creation, we look in lament at the many losses tossed about us: missed opportunities, miscarried memories and the many deaths that leave us empty. And yet, we live in hope as we gather differently – believing that You are able to work all things for good. Bring healing to our world, to our bodies, to our church.

Spirit...

God in whom we believe, these days we find our faith sorely tested: we wonder how it can be that such illness and brokenness can rifle through the world You call good. And yet You call us to pick up the pieces of our shattered certainty. As we do so, we find in its place a humble faith, which looks to your promised presence in the midst of even Holy Saturday dread.

Spirit...

God of righteousness and peace, we are painfully aware that plagues are not just: the elderly, the poor, and the weak have inordinately borne the horror of this novel corona virus. In the face of this injustice You justify a people to work for economic, medical and eco-justice.

Spirit....

God who is closer to us than we are to ourselves: and so listen for You now as we remember the names and needs of those whom we bring to You:

Spirit...

Spirit of grace and peace, You find us in disarray and cloak us in joy; You gather up the shattered pieces that we are and make us to be jubilee; You prepare us to be a people fit for Your healing Reign.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

<i>Thanksgiving</i>

Sharing of the Peace L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: *And also with you.*

Prayer L: Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer *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.*

Sending

L: Go to the hungry, waiting to be fed, and to hurting neighbours who need comfort.

C: *Our worship is made whole as we serve the least among us.*

L: May the church strive to build better relationships in the community.

C: *We seek to live in peace with all people, and we ask for God's help in this endeavour.*

L: Be affectionately devoted to one another; and extend that love beyond this circle.

C: *We need help to develop genuine love in which we really see and hear others.*

L: Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

C: *We renew our commitment to love our neighbours as ourselves.*

L: Amen.

Sending Hymn *"Give Me Jesus"*

ELW 770
(please see page 11)

Postlude



Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

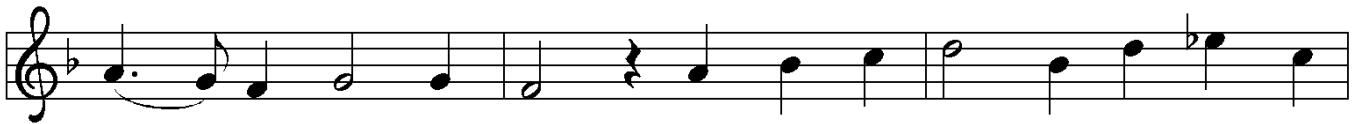
In Thee Is Gladness



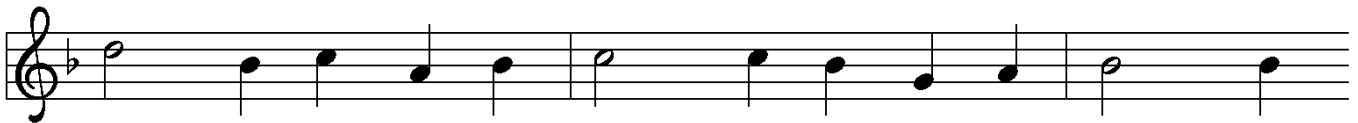
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him

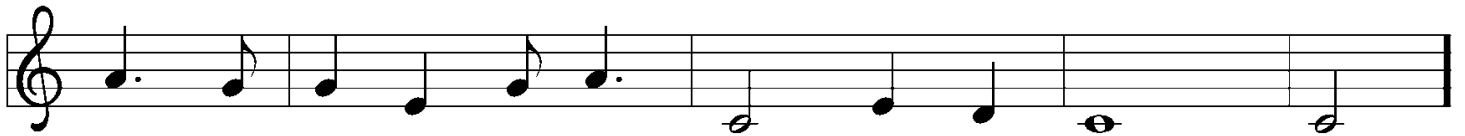


to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Give Me Jesus

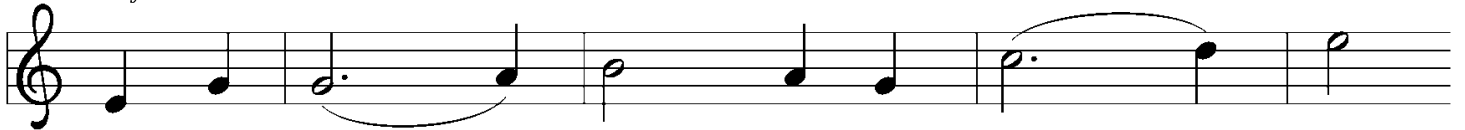


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.