



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ISLE OF HOPE, GA

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 21A
A SERVICE OF ANTE-COMMUNION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

*We are a welcoming community of faith and love that serves one another
and seeks to draw others to God through our ministries.*

OPENING SONG

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Prayer Book p 355

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Prayer Book p 234

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray. O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *The people sit*

The First Lesson

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

Philippians 2: 1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-8 (*in unison*)

Prayer Book p 614

- 1 **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 **Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.**
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 7 **Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 **He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Rock of Ages

The Second Lesson

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Aimee Baxter and Youth of St. Thomas

THE NICENE CREED

Prayer Book p 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the
Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We**

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Christ Jesus, pour out your Spirit upon us and give us your encouragement, your consolation from love, a sharing of your spirit of compassion and sympathy. Hear our prayers for this world, our community, and our church, and heal our divisions that your people may be of the same mind, having the same love, deeply rooted in your humility.

We pray for the church around the world. For our Laity, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. Give us strength and courage to face the challenges of this season, and inspire us to continue to be your church in new and different ways by offering the hope of Jesus's resurrection to a needy world. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation and all the nations of the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all elected and appointed officials. Give them a willingness to work together and inspire them to lead us in a way that promotes the good for all people. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that you will work through the hands and minds and hearts of those who are working to develop a vaccine for Covid-19. We remember those in the medical community who are working to save lives and care for those who are sick. We ask that balance will be restored to our world, and that we will continue to be mindful of the ways that our actions impact the whole global family. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Show us ways to care for the most vulnerable in our community: those who are homeless or imprisoned, those who are facing financial instability or lack of childcare to work. As your heart dwells consistently with these most vulnerable, soften our hearts for them as well. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our schools: for the teachers and administrators, the students and parents. Give wisdom and knowledge to those who make decisions; calm all anxious hearts; and give to us all a spirit of forbearance and an abundance of kindness for each other. Keep them all safe. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who are suffering in mind, body and spirit, especially_____. We remember those who mourn and those who have died, especially_____. May they know the peace that comes from your abiding presence. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Help us to examine our hearts; to pay attention to the times when we are anxious or afraid, bored or overwhelmed, lonely or overstimulated. May we always speak and act out of a place when we are most whole-hearted. Fill our hearts with your everlasting love. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Prayer Book p 360

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

**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 ABSOLUTION

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.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

CLOSING SONG

The Prayer of St. Francis

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Rev. Melanie is out of the office this week caring for her daughter after surgery. If you have a pastoral emergency, please, call the church office or Rev. Aimee.

October Schedule:

Sunday, October 4 – Worship with the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia at 10:am

You Tube: georgiaepiscopal Facebook: Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

Wednesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28 – Sacred Ground, 6:-7:30pm * see information below

Thursday, October 8th – Pet Blessing at 6:pm

Sunday, October 11th – Holy Eucharist – live-stream

Tuesdays, October 13, 20, and 27 – Evening Prayer at 6:pm

Wednesday, October 14th - Pick-up Communion 11:am-1:pm and 5:30pm-7:pm

Thursday, October 15th – Pick-up Communion 5:30pm – 7:pm

Sunday, October 18th – Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at 10:am

Sacred Ground: A Dialogue on Race and Faith: Join us, along with our friends from Isle of Hope United Methodist Church, as we take a deeper dive into the history and implications of race in our country, as well as, the church. The course runs over a six week period using a cultivated curriculum from the Episcopal Church and requires about an hour and a half of individual study each week. We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30pm beginning October 7 and ending on November 11. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please, reach out to Rev. Aimee.

Sermon by Phone!



You may now hear our latest St. Thomas worship service via your phone. Dial (912) 290-2272 direct with no charge to you.

The service will be uploaded after our livestream worship on Sunday mornings.

Intercession List

TRIP Franklin
TAYLOR Summerell
MOLLY McGoldrick
BETTIE Shore
FRITZ Knarr
SELINA Johnson
DORIE Nichols
TANYA
SARAH
SKY
KITTY Hill
RAEGAN Highsmith
LEM Highsmith
MIKE Winters
CHERYL Hoffman
EVELYN Ussery
CHRIS Daniels
THOMAS Regal
MARK Case
BENNETT Smith
PHIL Hope
KATHY McCurry
BARBARA Odermatt
ELEANOR Fennell

BILL Wall
SHANE Cummins
RHANDA Wilson
JOE Keith
KENT, CLAIRE & OLIVER
CHARLES Corbell, Jr.
SARALYN Porter
JOSEPHINE & FINLEY
PHYLLIS Posey
CHARLIE
JULIE McIntosh
SHERRY Richardson
WILL Quaile
ALISHA Quante
WAYLON
JANET
PADGE Arrington
RUSTY Youmans
MIKE Cashwell
CALVI FAMILY
WOOD FAMILY
DEBORAH MAHANY &
FAMILY
ALEXANDRA

PEPPI
NANCY Young
USHER Gay
RICHARD & VANIA
Orendorf
BUBBA Groover
LEIANN & Tony
JANIS Quinn
MARY MARGARET
Lemburg
CONNIE Burke
SARAH Burnes
ANDRE & LYNN Dyers
THE JORDAN/HARDNETT
FAMILY
BETSY Turner
TRAIS Gay Sneed
TERRY Webb
DUKE Smith

Our Servicemen & Women: Bruce Ford-Coates, Geoff Radley, Toni Paruso, Joseph Winters, Brian Stott, Andy Cameron, Christopher Dulaney, Christopher Collins, Michael Deloach, Hudson Tanner, Seth Eastman II, Ben Jared Peterson, Brent McDowell, Chandler Edwards, Mitchel Godbey

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Melanie Lemburg, Rector
The Rev. Aimee Baxter, Minister of Discipleship
Bernadette Winters, Minister of Music
Frances Conner, Parish Administrator
Nicole King, Sexton
Emerson Quaile, Maintenance

The Vestry

Bill Franklin, Senior Warden
Tracy Edgar, Joe Roberts, Co-Junior Wardens
Mitch Green, Treasurer

Mary Ryan Aimar
Mary Hardee
Ingrid Poppell

Jeff Conner
Rebecca McNicoll
Scott Tanner

Jane Gilchrist
Hugh Papy
Ellie Titus

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