

*Morning Prayer
with a Celtic Twist*



*Deb Runge

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022*

Welcome! If you are visiting, either in person or on Zoom, we offer you a special welcome and would like to get acquainted. If you are with us on Zoom and would like more information about our parish, please send the Zoom Usber a chat message, or for anyone in person or on Zoom, email office@stjamesvt.org with your name, where you're from, and your email address. On Zoom, please keep your microphone muted for most of the service. If you are reading a lesson or adding a thanksgiving or prayer request aloud during the time of prayers, please unmute yourself. Then please mute yourself again.

Prelude: Glory to You, God

Susan Palo Cherwien

All stand as able.

Opening Hymn: The God of Abraham praise

Hymnal 401

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;
 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - cous - nesses,
 4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,
 5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;
 2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:
 3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
 4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!
 5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:
 2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
 3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:
 5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.
 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."
 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Opening Sentences

Officiant The world belongs to God,
People The earth and all its people.
Officiant How good it is, how wonderful,
People To live together in unity.
Officiant Love and faith come together,
People Justice and peace join hands.
Officiant If Christ's disciples keep silent
People These stones would shout aloud.
Officiant Open our lips, O God,
People And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Confession

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is observed

Officiant and People

Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God:
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

The Priest alone says the following. If no Priest is present the Officiant says the following with words in brackets.

May God forgive you [us], Christ renew you [us], and the Spirit enable you [us] to grow in love.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O God, come to our assistance.
People O God, make haste to help us.
All Glory to the One in Three
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and evermore shall be.

Said in unison with the Officiant leading

I will sing a new song to my God, *
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you, *
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them, *
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, *
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you, *
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, *
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

The Appointed Psalm

All may sit.

Psalm 33:12-22

Read in a manner chosen by the Officiant: direct recitation (unison) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.

- 12 Happy is the nation that worships you, O Most High; *
happy the people you have chosen to be your own!
- 13 You look down from heaven *
and behold all the people in the world.
- 14 From where you sit enthroned you turn your gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 You fashion all the hearts of them *
and understand all their works.
- 16 There is no ruler that can be saved by a mighty army; *
the strong are not delivered by their great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.

- 18 But your eye, O God, is upon those who fear you, *
on those who wait upon your love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for you; *
you are our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in you, *
for in your holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever

St. Helena Breviary

The Lessons

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

A period of silence is kept.

Read in a manner chosen by the Officiant: direct recitation (unison) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating by half verse at the asterisk.

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.
Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the

innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand as able.

Hymn: My faith looks up to thee

Hymnal 691

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,

Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire.
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Ray Palmer (1808-1887)

In the service of Morning Prayer, all sit for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Deacon: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Deacon Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

All may sit.

Sermon

Kathy Rouleau

Affirmation of Faith

All stand as able and say in unison:

With the whole church
we affirm
that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.
With people everywhere
we affirm
God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.
With all creation
we celebrate
the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God
forever at work in ourselves and in the world. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages

Enriching Our Worship 42

The Suffrages are said responsively.

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

All are invited to say this collect together

Grant to us, O God, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

St. Columba's Prayer

Kindle in our hearts, O God,
the flame of love that never ceases,
that it may burn in us, giving light to others.
May we shine for ever in your temple,
set on fire with your eternal light,
even your Son Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and our Redeemer.
Amen.

Prayer for Welcoming the Stranger

We saw a stranger yesterday. We put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place. And, in the sacred name of the triune God, God blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her song: often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise. *Amen* *-Traditional*

Prayer for Trust

O God, we will trust you. Help us to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown, give us the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with you. Christ of the mysteries, we trust you to be stronger than each storm in us. We determine amidst all uncertainty always to trust. We choose to live beyond regret, and let you recreate our lives. We believe you will make a way for us and provide for us, if we only trust you. We will trust in the darkness and know that our times are still in your hand. We will believe you for our future, chapter by chapter, until all the story is written.
Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

All sit as the Intercessor offers prayers for those on our prayer lists.

We remember and pray for Grace Church in Sheldon and the Rev. Janet Brown in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and The Church in the Province of the West Indies in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers, especially for Paul, age 12 who has Lyme disease, grandson of Donna Prior Sullivan; Lindsey Huddle, Laurel Woods; Owen, a child who has cancer, friend of the Reichard family; the Gilbert family, especially Hannah, and Matt's father who suffered a stroke; Valerie Rochon, Jenny Ogelby, Neil Eklund, Sandra Ashley, Sandy Jones, and Grace.

I invite your prayers of intercession.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

We pray for those who have died, especially for all who have died of the coronavirus and for their loved ones, those who have died in the conflict in Ukraine and those who have died from the violence perpetrated by guns. I invite your prayers for those who have died.

I invite your prayers for those who have died.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

The Intercessor offers a prayer from the order of St Helena, the Episcopal Church

O God, we pray for the Lambeth Conference and the life of the Anglican Communion. May we open our hearts to peoples of other faith traditions: where there is a history of hurt and pain, may we seek reconciliation; where there are differences in beliefs and practices, may we engage in respectful dialogue; where we have been divided in our mission and values, may we strive to transcend these differences in our shared responsibility for peace and for stewardship of this precious earth. We pray for sacred friendships to grow and flourish in our common desire to live holy lives as we seek the divine presence.

The Intercessor offers a Prayer for Justice:

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the following Collect.

A Collect of Dedication

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

All stand as able for the hymn. The people’s offerings, which are gathered at the basket near the door, are brought up at this time by the usher to be offered to God.

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!
their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?
thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,

Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.
till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

Henry Ustick Onderdonk (1759-1858), alt.; para. The Song of the Redeemed

*Please continue to support our parish life and ministries by sending your offering to St. James Episcopal Church,
4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, VT 05452 You may also give online by visiting this website link.*

[ONLINE DONATIONS FOR ST. JAMES](#)

Final Prayer

All standing as able, the Officiant and People say responsively:

Officiant This is the day that God has made;
People We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Officiant We will not offer to God
People Offerings that cost us nothing.
Officiant Go in peace to love and to serve;
People We will seek peace and pursue it.
Officiant In the name of the Trinity of Love,
All God in community, Holy and One.

All may sit.

Community Announcements

Dismissal

All stand as able for the dismissal, concluding sentence, and procession of the cross.

The Deacon says

Deacon Let us go into the world rejoicing.
It is Christ who goes before us.
People Thanks be to God. Amen.

Concluding Sentence

The Officiant says

And now may the God of hope bring us such joy and peace in believing that we overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

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Opening Sentences, Confession, Affirmation of Faith, and Prayer for Welcoming Strangers, Final Prayer, Dismissal and Concluding Sentence from the Iona Abbey Worship Book. Introduction to the Invitatory and Psalter from A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book by William John Fitzgerald. St. Columba's prayer from A Celtic Liturgy by Pat Robson, A Prayer for Trust is from Celtic Daily Prayer (and Brendan the Navigator).

**Bulletin artwork: St. Kevin (originally named Coemgen) was an Celtic monk who allegedly lived from 498-618(!) His birth was the fulfillment of a prophecy of St. Patrick's. He was a devout lover of birds and animals about whom many legends survive. He started his church in Glendalough (land of 2 lakes). Six more churches were built there, and it became an important place of pilgrimage. I have read different versions of the same events in Kevin's life, so I've decided to believe my favorite ones. Depicted in this painting, from the left, is the time Kevin banished the animal and people-eating serpent to the smaller of the two lakes, saving the lives of his people and animals; the time a blackbird*

built her nest in Kevin's hand when he was praying, so he held his hand in place until the baby blackbirds fledged; and the time Kevin dropped his Psalter into the lake and it was retrieved for him by an otter. In the center of the painting is St Kevin's Chapel. More information about Kevin is in Charles Plummer's Lives of Irish Saints, available at <https://archive.org/details/bethada02plumuoft/bethada02plumuoft>.

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost—Year C

Welcome to St. James Episcopal Church. Central to today's liturgy is the gospel call to live always in expectation of the Lord's return. That stance of waiting enables us to put all other aspects of our lives in the correct order. Material needs become not irrelevant, but secondary to our life in relationship to God in Christ. Jesus calls us to live as though he is at hand. The Eucharist is the repeated foretaste of the coming of the Lord to take us into the Kingdom.

We will spend several Sundays reading through the concluding portion of the Epistle to the Hebrews. This section deals with the call to faith, which we have in Christ. Our forbearers in the faith, especially Abraham and Sarah, are presented as models of this faith, which is described as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen. It is in remembering that God was faithful to our ancestors in faith that we are equipped for our own time of waiting.

The first reading relates God's promise to Abraham and Sarah, old and childless, to give them an heir and produce from them a new people. For the first time, the Scriptures express what will become central to the Gospel proclamation: righteousness depends on faith.

As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we are upheld in our expectation of Jesus' promise to take us into his Kingdom by the memory of our mothers and fathers in the faith whose hope was fulfilled by God.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

Officiant: The Rev. Kim Hardy
Preacher: Kathy Rouleau
Deacon: The Rev. Dn. Dave Ganter
Lector: Neal Robinson
Intercessor: Denise Noble
Musicians: Nancy Roff
Greeter: Karen Robinson
Usher: Nancy Collins
Minister of Technology: Brian Garland
Digital Usher: Barbara Cook

IN OUR PRAYERS

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace Church in Sheldon and the Rev. Janet Brown. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Church in the Province of the West Indies.

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers: Paul, age 12 who has Lyme disease, grandson of Donna Prior Sullivan; Lindsey Huddle, Laurel Woods; Owen, a child who has cancer, friend of the Reichard family; the Gilbert family, especially Hannah, and Matt's father who suffered a stroke; Valerie Rochon; Jenny Ogelby, Neil Eklund, Sandra Ashley, Sandy Jones, and Grace.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: We remember the departed and those who mourn, especially for all who have died of the coronavirus and for their loved ones, those who have died in the conflict in Ukraine and those who have died from the violence perpetrated by guns.

Please join us for a brief Compline service with music online Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

[Compline Zoom Link](#)



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop of Vermont: The Right Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Rector: The Rev. Kim Hardy

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Brian Garland

Junior Warden, Ron Belair

Linda Chiasson

Ron Cook

Frances Huessy

Paula Morgan

Jenny Ogelby

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: Diane Muckstadt

4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

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Priest contact: ammakim@stjamesvt.org



St. James Episcopal Church Calendar

Sunday, August 7

8:30 Lectionary Discussion
10:00 Morning Prayer
11:00 Coffee and Conversation

Monday, August 8

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Tuesday, August 9

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
10-12 *Pick up communion elements
at Church*

Wednesday, August 10

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
10-12 *Pick up communion elements
at Church*
5:45 VCU Board Mtg, Parish Hall
6:30 Worship Team Meeting

Thursday, August 11

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
10:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Compline

Friday, August 12

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Saturday, August 13

9:00-1:30 VT Mandir Group

Sunday, August 14

8:30 Lectionary Discussion
10:00 Holy Eucharist
11:00 Coffee and Conversation

Monday, August 15

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Tuesday, August 16

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Wednesday, August 17

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Thursday, August 18

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James
7:00 Compline

Friday, August 19

9:00 MOW Delivery from St. James

Saturday, August 20

9:00-1:30 VT Mandir Group