



"Lamp of Wisdom", sculpture in Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire, England

THE 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A Service of the Word

July 12, 2020 ♦ 10:00 a.m.

The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Paul was saying that, in Jesus, we discover something fundamentally important about God: God’s love takes us up precisely when we are least deserving of it, when we are least lovable. God expresses his love specifically for those who don’t deserve it.

“God’s love can do more than this—and does. The good news is that it will never do less. When you are least lovable, God says, ‘I love you.’ When you are least worthy, God says, ‘You are forgiven.’ Take yourself down to your lowest, most unattractive, most undeserving state—and there is God’s love for you, as alive as ever.”

— William Countryman, in *The Truth about Love* (1993)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ’s resurrection

Prelude — “Sonata No. 3, *Adagio e dolce*” by Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 65*

One: You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

Many: To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.

One: Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

Many: Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there!

Hymn — “O God, Who Gives Us Life”

NOEL

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der-ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Prayer of the Day

Eric Milner-White & G.W. Briggs, *Daily Prayer*, 1941

One: Let us pray.

Many: O Holy Spirit,

Giver of light and life,
impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts,
and prayer better than our own prayers,
and powers beyond our own powers,
that we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the perfect image
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time (indicated by '3/4') and a key signature of two sharps (F major). The top staff is treble clef, the middle staff is bass clef, and the bottom staff is bass clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music. The first section of lyrics is "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly." The second section of lyrics is "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!" The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sustained notes and a prominent bass line.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

*The **refrain** (“Come and Fill Our Hearts” – music above) is repeated.*

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Emery

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the “Chat” feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted to Pastor Matt for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people.

An Offering Thought

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. — Romans 8:11

Stewarding our civic freedoms and responsibilities is hard, holy work that seems bigger than our meager resources and knowledge. But God’s very Spirit dwells in us, equips us, goads us, and moves our hearts and feet toward justice for all.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Mein gläubiges Herze” by Bach

Sarah Marze, soprano

Mein gläubiges Herze, frohlocke, sing’, scherze, dein Jesus ist nah.

My faithful heart, delight, sing, play, your Jesus is here.

Weg Jammer, weg Klagen, ich will euch nur sagen, mein Jesus ist da.

Away with sorrow, away with lamenting, I will only say to you, my Jesus is near.

— from Cantata 68, “God so Loved the World”

The Prayers of the People, ending with The Lord’s Prayer

Many: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff a bass clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. The lyrics are divided into three parts, each with a different line number (1, 2, 3) above it. The first part starts with "O Holy Spir - it, Root of life, Cre - a - tor," followed by a repeat sign. The second part starts with "E - ter - nal Vig - or, Sav - ing One, you free us." The third part starts with "O Ho - ly Wis - dom, Soar - ing Power, en - com - pass." The music features simple chords and some melodic lines.

I O Ho - ly Spir - it, Root of life, Cre - a - tor,
2 E - ter - nal Vig - or, Sav - ing One, you free us
3 O Ho - ly Wis - dom, Soar - ing Power, en - com - pass

cleans - er of all things, a - noint our wounds, a -
by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all, a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Benediction

Postlude — “Variations on PUER NOBIS NASCITUR” by Dandrieu

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

At today’s “coffee hour”, we’ll be taking time to gather congregational reactions, input, and feedback related to the **Task Force on Staffing Structure’s potentially forthcoming recommendations regarding new staff positions**. We hope you’ll stick around and participate!

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

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