



Morning Prayer
Wednesday February 3, 2021
10 am on Zoom

The Feast of Brigid [transferred]

- 10 *Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*
- 11 *Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.*

[Psalm 85:10-11]

Opening Sentence

It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. [Isaiah 60:3]

The Confession

God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you create us from nothing and give us life. You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside. We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

The God of heaven has made his home on earth. Christ dwells among us and is one with us. The highest of all creation lives among the least. Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary. Come now all who thirst and drink the water of life. Come now all who hunger and be filled with good things. Come now all who seek and be warmed by the fire of love.
(Iona Abbey Worship Book - Service of Welcome)

Come, Lord, come to us. Enter our darkness with your light, Fill our emptiness with your presence, Come refresh, restore, renew us. In our sadness, come as joy, In our troubles, come as peace, In our fearfulness, come as hope, In our darkness, come as light, In our frailty, come as strength, In our loneliness come as love, Come, refresh, restore, renew us. (David Adam)

The Invitatory and Psalter

Invitatory Psalm 100 *Jubilate*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 138

I thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the angels I sing your praise;

I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
which go beyond what we have ever known.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased the strength of my soul.

All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he looks on the lowly;
and he recognizes the haughty from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand and save me,

You will fulfil your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever,
hold close the work of your hands.

The First Lesson: A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own call, my friends: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Canticle: A Song of Our True Nature - Julian of Norwich

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, * our trespasses and our humiliations.

Christ also revealed his blessed power, * his blessed wisdom and love.

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need; *

He raises us in spirit and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.

God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature; *

God is the true father and mother of natures.

We are all bound to God by nature, * and we are all bound to God by grace.

And this grace is for all the world, * because it is our precious mother, Christ.

For this fair nature was prepared by Christ for the honor and nobility of all, *

and for the joy and bliss of salvation.

The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Matthew [6:25-33]

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Prayers of the People

As the people of God, we are called to love one another because love is from God. Let us now express that love by praying for the concerns of all.

God of justice and peace, you stand with those who are poor,

You ask us to be the voice of the voiceless.

We call upon you for those who are suffering the injustice of war and greed,

From the depths of our very being we cry to you.

Compassionate God, we call upon you to comfort those who suffer pain and fear,

May your love surround and heal them.

Creator God, you know what we need, without our words.

Hear our prayer and also hear our silence.

Grant us those things we cannot or dare not voice. We make these prayers through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

-Adapted from the Oxford Women's Liturgy in *The New Women Included*

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Day

O God, by whose grace your servant Brigid, kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a shining light in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for our Nation

Spirit of justice, creator Spirit; help us to make and keep this country a home for all its different peoples, and grant to our leaders imagination, courage and wisdom, that there may grow amongst us wellbeing and peace. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Black History Month

- *from Kierra Stuvland & Unknown Author*

Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace and Hope, we pause now to remember those stories that are all around us, but so often passed over, those stories that are shared because of what someone is, not who they are. We remember the legacy of those who came before us – who not only paved the way but carried the bricks on broken backs that then built that road. We remember the songs, stories, and fiery hope of old men and little girls, granny midwives and marvelous musicians, great orators and leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators – those who are earth-tone brown, black as night, fair like the sands of Egypt. Help us to realize that Black history is all our histories.

Lord, when it's too hard living, we remember you are the great "I am" and our source of strength and purpose for each new day. Help us to value diversity beyond variety. Grant us a vision for a future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, and ideas that we share. May our hearts not be hardened to the pain around us. Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month may come to be known as our history too. Amen.

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

Howard Thurman, Meditations of the Heart

Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

A Prayer in Time of Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of almost 450, 000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for an End to Racism

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

A Litany for Social Justice

Pray for those who are hungry.

Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

Pray for those who are homeless.

Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

Pray for the sick and lonely.

Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

Pray harder for those who will not listen.

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

Pray harder for those who exploit them.

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Amen.**

