

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

**\* OPENING CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER**

O God, open our lips,  
***and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.***  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
***we praise your name, O God.***

**\* REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

By Word and water God renews us this day  
in the living fountain of God's grace,  
and raises us with Christ Jesus  
to live a new life in the Spirit. \* OSL  
***Satisfy us in the morning  
with your steadfast love, O God,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.***

**\* MORNING CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Holy One;  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
***Let us come before God's presence  
with thanksgiving,  
and raise a loud shout with psalms.***

For you, O God, are a great God,  
you are great above all gods.  
***In your hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are yours also.***

The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.  
***Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,  
and kneel before God, our Maker.***

For you are our God,  
and we are the people of your pasture  
and the sheep of your hand.  
***Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!***

**\* MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One be with you;  
***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

***We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night  
and for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of  
pleasing you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in  
the perfect freedom of your service, that at eventide we  
may again give thanks unto you. Amen.***

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\* [Psalm 122](#) NRSV

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:***

***“May they prosper who love you.***

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

<sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem—built as a city

that is bound firmly together.

<sup>4</sup> To it the tribes go up,

the tribes of the LORD,

as was decreed for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls

and security within your towers.”

<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you.”

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:***

***“May they prosper who love you.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: Acts 8:1-13** CEB

<sup>1</sup> Saul was in full agreement with Stephen’s murder.

At that time, the church in Jerusalem began to be subjected to vicious harassment. Everyone except the apostles was scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Some pious men buried Stephen and deeply grieved over him. <sup>3</sup> Saul began to wreak havoc against the church. Entering one house after another, he would drag off both men and women and throw them into prison.

<sup>4</sup> Those who had been scattered moved on, preaching the good news along the way. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to a city in Samaria and began to preach Christ to them. <sup>6</sup> The crowds were united by what they heard Philip say and the

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signs they saw him perform, and they gave him their undivided attention. <sup>7</sup> With loud shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many people, and many who were paralyzed or crippled were healed. <sup>8</sup> There was great rejoicing in that city.

<sup>9</sup> Before Philip's arrival, a certain man named Simon had practiced sorcery in that city and baffled the people of Samaria. He claimed to be a great person. <sup>10</sup> Everyone, from the least to the greatest, gave him their undivided attention and referred to him as "the power of God called Great." <sup>11</sup> He had their attention because he had baffled them with sorcery for a long time. <sup>12</sup> After they came to believe Philip, who preached the good news about God's kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. <sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself came to believe and was baptized. Afterward, he became one of Philip's supporters. As he saw firsthand the signs and great miracles that were happening, he was astonished.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** John 5:30-47 CEB

<sup>30</sup> I can't do anything by myself. Whatever I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just. I don't seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me.

<sup>31</sup> "If I testify about myself, my testimony isn't true.

<sup>32</sup> There is someone else who testifies about me, and I know his testimony about me is true. <sup>33</sup> You sent a delegation to John, and he testified to the truth.

<sup>34</sup> Although I don't accept human testimony, I say these things so that you can be saved. <sup>35</sup> John was a burning and shining lamp, and, at least for a while, you were willing to celebrate in his light.

<sup>36</sup> "I have a witness greater than John's testimony. The Father has given me works to do so that I might complete them. These works I do testify about me that the Father sent me. <sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me testifies about me. You have never even heard his voice or seen his form, <sup>38</sup> and you don't have his word dwelling with you because you don't believe the one whom he has sent.

<sup>39</sup> Examine the scriptures, since you think that in them you have eternal life. They also testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you don't want to come to me so that you can have life.

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<sup>41</sup> “I don’t accept praise from people, <sup>42</sup> but I know you, that you don’t have God’s love in you. <sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father’s name, and you don’t receive me. If others come in their own name, you receive them. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe when you receive praise from each other but don’t seek the praise that comes from the only God?

<sup>45</sup> “Don’t think that I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, the one in whom your hope rests. <sup>46</sup> If you believed Moses, you would believe me, because Moses wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> If you don’t believe the writings of Moses, how will you believe my words?”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH**

We bless you, Adonai, God of *Israel*,  
for you come to visit us and ransom us from *bondage*.  
You have brought forth a strong De-liverer  
in the house of your child *David*.

**This is what your holy prophets an-nounced:  
deliverance from enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate *us*;  
mercy a-mong our *ancestors*,  
and remembrance of your ho-ly *covenant*.**

This is the promise you swore to our an-cestor, *Abraham*,  
to make us un-a-fraid,  
to rescue us from our *enemies*,  
to serve before you, holy and just,  
all the days of our *lives*.

**And this, my little child,  
shall be called prophet of the Most *High*,  
going before you, Adonai, to pre-pare your *paths*,  
making your people know de-liverance  
by the forgiveness of their *sins*.**

**Through your merciful compassions, God our *God*,  
the dawn from on high shall *visit us*,  
to shine on those kept in dungeons  
and the shadows of *death*  
and to guide our feet onto the path of *peace*.**

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,  
one God, now and for-ever, A-men.

\* **THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

*I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty.  
From there he shall 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.*

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,  
**and also with you.**

Let us pray: *(stop and pray for those on your heart today)*

\* **FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL**

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

\* **COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER –**

Charles Grandison Finney (1875)

Holy and merciful God, in your love for the world you raised Charles Grandison Finney to be an evangelist, a herald of the good news: strengthen and guide those entrusted with the proclamation of your Word that as they make known your redeeming love we may heed and receive their glad tidings, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\* *For All the Saints*

\* PRAYERS FOR THE GREATER NJ CONFERENCE

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Greater New Jersey Conference to a sizable fellowship of faith. Bless Bishop Schol, our District Superintendents, other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BCP – adapted

\* PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

***Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* **THE 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.***

\* COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF JOHN 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.***

\* **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father,  
You have brought us in safety to this new day:  
preserve us with your mighty power,  
that we may not fall into sin,  
nor be overcome by adversity;  
and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* **BLESSING**

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the  
extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with all of you. **Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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