



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA

Wednesday Devotional Time

December 16, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Father Tony Holder, Rector

Mission Statement:

The Community of All Saints' accepts the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship of God, service to His people and stewardship of His gifts.

*The people are invited to read the parts in **bold**.*

Prelude Music

"Creator of the stars of night"

Alex Mejias, High Street Hymns

Opening Prayer

The Officiant begins with the following words:

Officiant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord, and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts, visit us with the grace of your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Officiant: O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be our strength. By the might of your Holy Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Psalm 32

(Page 624 of the Book of Common Prayer or as printed in the bulletin. We will read the psalm alternatively by half verse.)

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, * **and whose sin is put away!**

2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, * **and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, * **because of my groaning all day long.**

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; * **my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, * **and did not conceal my guilt.**

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." * **Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; * **when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; * **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; * **I will guide you with my eye.**
10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; * **who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.**"
11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; * **but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; * **shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

Scriptural Reading: Titus 3.1-8

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Rector

Contemplation

During the musical selection, "O come, O come, Emmanuel" you are invited to contemplate on the following.

What conversion of body, mind, heart, and spirit is the Lord asking of me?

Remind them ... to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone."

How do I treat the people God has placed in my life?

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

When have we use our goodness and kindness for the benefit of others? How have we been a part of God's act of salvation in the world?

Confession and Absolution

Officiant: Let us, in humility, confess our sins to God.

Silence

People: Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The Officiant says the following Absolution.

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and

resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, not holding our sins against us, but sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church, receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone this day and for evermore.

People: Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

The musical selection - "Remembering the Light" (Instrumental music from the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois) is played during the prayers.

Officiant: Wonderful and mighty God, our refuge and strength from generation to generation, as the days grow shorter and the nights longer,

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: We give you thanks once again for the simple and profound stories in our scriptures that tell of your loving relationship with humanity and all creation.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: Thank you for making yourself known to us in so many ways: from the heavens proclaiming your glory, to your incarnation in Jesus Christ, to the winds of your Holy Spirit moving among us and within us, stirring things up, bringing good news, filling us with wonder.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: Thank you for the testimony of poets, artists, musicians whose carols and paintings and stories bring joy, light and hope into our lives, even in the most difficult of days.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: We pray, O come, O come, Emmanuel, and yet we know that you are always present in our midst and in our hearts.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: Help us to recognize you, trust you, rely on you, through all the challenges that life brings our way, and the particular challenges of this Advent season: the ongoing pandemic threatening life and health, the physical distance we must maintain from our loved ones, political rancor that makes it so difficult for us to see our common humanity, increasing threats of violence, economic instability, eviction, homelessness, hunger, depression, fear, grief.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: We pray for those who are ill and experiencing physical, psychological, financial, emotional, social challenges in their lives especially *[Spontaneously name those for whom we wish to intercede now in particular.]*

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: Gracious God, we pray for the welfare of our cities in this community. And knowing technology allows us to worship with friends and neighbors throughout our country and world, we pray for the welfare of all cities in our country and the world, and for this planet which is our communal home.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: Comforter of your people, holy prince of peace, as we wait for you to be born again into our lives, shine your light and make our paths clear, so that we may follow as you guide us, in confidence and trust, sharing your light and love with all whom we encounter. Help each one of us and all of us to answer your call and do our part to build up your beloved community.

People: **We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

(Adapted from the Prayers of the People offered by the Rev. Kate Dunn on Dec. 13, 2020 at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church)

Officiant: We ask all this in Jesus' name, praying as he taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Kelly Cruz

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Officiant may say

May the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

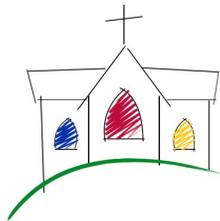
Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Selection:

"Prepare Him Room"

Sovereign Grace



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