September 13th, 2020
Online Service 9:00 AM
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  Dover, New Hampshire

Greetings
Rev. Sue Poulin

Prelude
Kathy Fink, piano

Opening Hymn: 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore
Feed me now and evermore

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield
Be thou still my strength and shield

Opening Sentence

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People : And Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day:**

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**The First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Psalm 103: (1-7), 8-13 *Benedic, anima mea*

1 [Bless the L ORD, O my soul, * 
   and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
2 Bless the L ORD, O my soul, * 
   and forget not all his benefits.
3 He forgives all your sins * 
   and heals all your infirmities;
4 He redeems your life from the grave * 
   and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
5 He satisfies you with good things, * 
   and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
6 The L ORD executes righteousness * 
   and judgment for all who are oppressed.
7 He made his ways known to Moses * 
   and his works to the children of Israel.]
8 The L ORD is full of compassion and mercy, * 
   slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 He will not always accuse us, * 
   nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * 
   nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, * 
   so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west, * 
   so far has he removed our sins from us.
13 As a father cares for his children, * 
   so does the L ORD care for those who fear him.
The Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Sequence Hymn 411 O bless the Lord, my soul v. 1

_O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee proclaim!_
_And all that is within me join to bless his holy Name!_

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: _Glory to you Lord Christ._

**The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. _Praise to you, Lord Christ._

Sequence Hymn 411 O bless the Lord, my soul v. 2

_O bless the Lord, my soul! His mercies bear in mind!_
__Forget not all his benefits! The Lord to thee is kind._
The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Prayers of the People Form 1

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

- For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For this city (Dover, NH), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For those who travel on land, on water, in the air [or through outer space], let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*
- For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those on our prayer list, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.* Please join me in saying the first names of those on our prayer list.

**Prayers of Intercession:**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. 
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St Thomas and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.
The Holy Communion - Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

**The Breaking of the Bread**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Behold what you are, may we become what we receive.

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.
Silence

**Post communion prayer**

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: 376** Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love.*
*Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.*
*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away*
*Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays.*
*Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.*
*Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,*
*Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Postlude** Kathy Fink, piano

*Please feel free to stay online after the service to share thoughts and concerns.*

Our church office is now open on Tuesday through Friday mornings. Messages will be checked on other days as well.

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