



*A ministry and community of prayer of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont*

A few notes about today's service.

***Please leave your microphone on mute*** during the responsory portions of the service. You are welcome to unmute yourself when you are invited to offer your prayers, then remember to mute it again when you have completed your prayer.

MORNING PRAYER

***Thursday, January 20, 2022  
The Season of Epiphany***

## Opening Sentence

*The Officiant says the following*

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

## Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O God, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant* You laid the foundation of the earth

*People* and the heavens are the work of your hands.

*All* Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

*Officiant* Alleluia, Christ is shown forth in glory:

*People* O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

*Said in unison* **Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

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!

*Officiant* Alleluia, Christ is shown forth in glory:  
*People* O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

### **Psalm Appointed**

*read in unison* **Psalm 37:1-18** Part I *Noli æmulari*

1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \*  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, \*  
and like the green grass fade away.

3 Put your trust in God and do good; \*  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

4 Take delight in God, \*  
who shall give you your heart's desire.

5 Commit your way to God and put your trust in God, \*  
who will bring it to pass.

6 God will make your righteousness as clear as the light \*  
and your just dealing as the noonday.

7 Be still before God; \*  
for God wait patiently.

8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \*  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \*  
do not fret yourself, it leads only to evil.

10 For evildoers shall be cut off, \*  
but those who wait upon God shall possess the land.

11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \*  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

12 But the lowly shall possess the land; \*  
they will delight in abundance of peace.

13 The wicked plot against the righteous \*  
and gnash at them with their teeth.

14 God laughs at the wicked, \*  
seeing that their day will come.

15 The wicked draw their sword and bend their bow  
to strike down the poor and needy, \*  
to slaughter those who are upright in their ways.

16 Their sword shall go through their own heart, \*  
and their bow shall be broken.

17 The little that the righteous has \*  
is better than great riches of the wicked.

18 For the power of the wicked shall be broken, \*  
but God upholds the righteous.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
for ever. Amen.

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading**

*Reader* A reading from **The Book of Genesis 11:1-9**

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Here ends the reading.

*read in unison* **Canticle 26**

**A Song of God's Chosen One** *Isaiah 11.1,2,3b-4a,6,9*

*Refrain:*

*All* The earth shall be full of the knowledge of our God.

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;

from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom:

The Spirit of God will rest on you--

a spirit of wisdom and understanding,

a spirit of counsel and strength,

a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.

You will delight in obeying God,

and you won't judge by appearances,

or make decisions by hearsay.

You will treat poor people with fairness

and will uphold the rights of the land's

downtrodden.

With a single word you will strike down tyrants;

with your decrees you will execute evil people.

Justice will be the belt around this your waist-

faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;

the calf and the lion cub will graze together,

and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear;

their young will lie down together.

The lion will eat hay like the ox.

The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,

and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.

There will be no harm, no destruction  
anywhere in my holy mountain;  
for as water fills the sea,  
so the land will be filled with knowledge of God.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Refrain:*

*All* The earth shall be full of the knowledge of our God.

## **The Gospel**

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel of **John 4:1-15**

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said

to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Here ends the reading.

*A moment of silence is observed so that we may reflect on the teachings and ministry of Jesus.*

### **The Apostle's Creed**

*The Officiant and People say together*

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**

*Officiant* Believing the promises of God, as our Savior taught us, we pray

*Officiant and People* **An alternative Lord's Prayer**

Our loving God in heaven,  
holy is your Name,  
may your reign 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 all creation, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

**Suffrages**

V. Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance;  
R. govern and uphold us now and always.  
V. Day by day we bless you  
R. we praise your name forever.  
V. O God, keep us without sin today;  
R. have mercy on us, O God, have mercy.  
V. Show us your love and mercy;  
R. for we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, O God, is our hope;  
R. and we shall never hope in vain.

**The Collects**

## **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Together*

## **A Collect for Guidance**

O God, our Creator and Sustainer, in you we live and move and have our being: We pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

*Together*

## **For People Facing Uncertainty**

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. *Amen.*

*Together*

## **For discernment for the future of the Diocese of Vermont**

Gracious and loving God, of transformation and discovery, we give thanks that you call us to be your people in this time, and in this place. As you call us into deeper and uncertain waters, "to step out of the boat and go closer to Jesus," we give thanks for the experience, gifts and skills of our diocesan household,

represented by the Task Force for Hope, Revitalization, Innovation, Vision, and Efficiency (THRIVE). Bless their efforts as they rally and shepherd us in our common work. We pray for open hearts and minds and for clear vision, and never-ending reliance on your abundant and creative goodness. We pray for inspiration and guidance from your Holy Spirit, knowing that your power working in us can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine. All this, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Together*

**For dismantling racism**

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” Amen.

*The Officiant says*

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession at this time.

*(During the silence people may add their own prayers. Please unmute yourself to share your prayer aloud. When you have completed your prayer, return the microphone to mute.)*

*The Officiant concludes with the Collect for Mission*

### **A Collect for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **The General Thanksgiving**

*The Officiant and People say together*

Almighty God, of boundless mercy,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world  
by our Savior Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips,  
but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ, our best vision,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*Together* **A Collect of Dedication**

Beloved God: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, once again we offer ourselves to you. May the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us bless God.

*People* To God be thanks forever.

*The Officiant ends with a Concluding Sentences*

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

*Liturgy created with the following resources*

*Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, Saint Helena Breviary: © Order of*

*Saint Helena, used by permission and A New Zealand Prayer Book, Common Worship  
Times and Seasons, For dismantling racism - Peggy Bonesteel and the prayer team of  
St. James Episcopal Church, Essex Jct., VT*