



# *A Liturgy of the Word Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Date : 15 October 2023*

**The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.**

## *Processional Hymn*

**Father, Lord of all creation,  
ground of being, life and love;  
Height and depth beyond description,  
only life in you can prove:  
You are mortal life's dependence:  
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;  
Yours is every hour's existence,  
sovereign Lord of time and space.**

**Jesus Christ, the man for others  
we, your people, make our prayer  
help us love, as sisters, brothers  
all whose burdens we can share  
where your name binds us together  
you, Lord Christ, will surely be  
where no selfishness can sever  
there you love the world may see.**

**Holy Spirit, rushing, bringing  
wind and flame of Pentecost  
fire our hearts afresh with yearning  
to regain what we have lost  
may your love unite our action  
nevermore to speak alone  
God, in us, abolish faction  
God, through us, your love make known.**

*Author: Stewart Cross*

## *Call to Worship*

**Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good  
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

**Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,  
or declare all God's praise?  
Those who observe justice and do righteousness at all times.**

**Let justice roll down like rivers, and righteousness  
like an ever-flowing stream.**

**The Lord be with you  
And also with you**

## *Gathering Prayer*

**Gracious Lord, in the absence of your servant Moses  
your people returned to their futile ways of idolatry.  
As we gather virtually today, help us surrender our own idols to you.  
May your law be inscribed on our hearts that we would live  
according to your ways and forever offer your praise  
and thanksgiving. In the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen****



## *Collect for Purity*

**Almighty God  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleans 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**

## *The Penitence*

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
as on the day of testing in the wilderness,  
where your ancestors put me to the test,  
though they had seen my works for forty years.  
But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today,"  
so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Let us confess our sins together and  
the times we have failed to act upon God's word:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**

## *Absolution*

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and grace and strength in abundance.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

## *The Collect*

Lord of the feast,  
you invite everyone to your banquet:  
keep from us all that distracts us  
and stir in us the desire to respond with gladness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**



## *The Word of God*

Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 20-24  
Philippians 4:1-9

## *Gospel Reading*

Matthew 22:1-14

## *The Sermon*

Sermon: The Revd Matthew Wright

## *Affirmation of Faith*

Let us declare our faith in the words of the Baptismal Creed

**I believe and trust in God the Father  
who made the world.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ  
Who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit  
who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

We join now in prayer with the universal Church. Let us approach God's throne of grace in faith and earnestness as we intercede for those in need.

In a world which is oversaturated with various media, fads and trends, it is so easy to be distracted from the goodness you offer. Call us back to you, Lord, that we would not be blinded and dazzled by the fancies of this world, but that our love and faith would forever be anchored in your being. We pray especially for our young people as well as those who care for them – parents, grandparents, teachers, child-minders and all who play parental roles. May you strengthen and sustain them and may you enable them to raise our children in the faith and love of the Lord.  
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help us Lord to live in love and peace with our neighbour. Help us to strengthen the bonds of fellowship which unite us collectively as the Body of Christ. As humans we are fallible, and prone to failing. But we know that with your love, grace and the power of your Holy Spirit, all things are possible. Guide us therefore and lead us according to your will that we would witness to the reality your kingdom and live as your faithful people.  
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

As this time of what seems like unprecedented unrest, with increased armed conflicts and acts of war, we pray, gracious Father, for your hurting world. We know that you are a just God. And so we believe that your perfect will will prevail. We especially commit into your hands all innocent victims of war and armed conflict. May you have mercy on their souls as well as on their loved ones who grieve them, and may you be with all who are displaced or adversely affected through war.  
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**



We pray for the Anglican Communion. We pray for greater unity and cooperation both within the Communion and between us and our sister churches. We pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; for Thabo our Archbishop. And we continue to pray for our own diocese and Bishop Steve, especially as final preparations are made for our Diocesan Synod.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We continue to give thanks for your faithfulness toward the people of St Michael's, Bryanston. May you cause our parish to witness to your love and faithfulness in proportion to the great blessings you have poured out on us. We continue to pray for the appointment of a rector for our parish. And we pray for all ministries and portfolios active in our parish that they would be agents of the building of your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of healing and consolation, we lift up before you all who are in need of your care at this time: those who are physically ill; those who are experiencing mental or emotional distress; those who are suffering, or recovering, from bereavement. We pray especially for... May they all know your healing power as well as the peace of your Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Finally, Lord, we commit into your keeping those of our loved ones who have recently passed from this world. Together, with those whose year's mind we recall today (mention...), may you look upon them with your infinite love and mercy and may they be comforted in your presence.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Accept these our prayers, Father, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen**

### *Prayer for Offering*

Father, truly, we are your servants. In you, we live and move and have our being. We offer you our thanksgiving and call on your name. We love you, Lord, for you hear us and respond in graciousness and compassion and righteousness. You deliver our souls from death, our feet from stumbling, and our eyes from tears. Now receive our tithes and offerings, we pray. Multiply them so that your work and word can go forth. In the name of Christ.

**Amen**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your Name  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as it is 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**

**Hymn: Give me joy in my heart – AMNS 459**

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.  
Keep me praising till the break of day.**

**Refrain:**

**Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King!**



Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.  
Keep me resting till the break of day. [Refrain]

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.  
Give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.  
Keep me serving till the break of day. [Refrain]

Author: Traditional

*Final Blessing*

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,  
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and  
if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.  
Keep on doing these things and the God of peace will be with you.  
And the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
be with you all, now and always. **Amen**


*Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Giving*

Thank you for your continued financial contribution  
to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's  
to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

**E.F.T**  
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