

8:00 SERVICE



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003
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MATTHEW 18:20

**“FOR WHERE TWO OR
THREE ARE GATHERED
IN MY NAME, I’M THERE
WITH THEM.”**

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020

MORNING PRAYER

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

Opening Acclamation

BCP 78

Officiant The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

Habakkuk 2:20

Confession of Sin

BCP 79

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept to allow time to confess specific sins to God.

All 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.

Absolution

BCP 80

Presider: 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 Invitatory & Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

BCP 80

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Jubilate (*Psalm 100*)

BCP 82-83

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 119:33-40

BCP Version

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

First Lesson- Ezekiel 33:7-11

Common English Bible

In our first reading, the prophet Ezekiel receives a message from God to deliver to the Israelites in exile in Babylon.

[The Lord’s word came to Ezekiel]: “You, human one, I’ve made you a lookout for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear me speaking, you must give them warning from me. If I pronounce a death sentence on wicked people, and you don’t warn them to turn from their way, they will die in their guilt, but I will hold you responsible for their blood. But suppose you do warn the wicked of their ways so that they might turn from them. If they don’t turn from their ways, they will die in their guilt, but you will save your life.

“You, human one, say to the house of Israel: ‘This is what all of you are saying: “How our transgressions and our sins weigh on us! We waste away because of them. How can we live?”’ Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord God says: As surely as I live, do I take pleasure in the death of the wicked? If the wicked turn from their ways, they will live. Turn, completely turn from your wicked ways! Why should you die, house of Israel?’”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the canticle.

Canticle 14: A Song of Penitence

BCP 90-91

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

Second Lesson- Romans 13:8-14

Common English Bible

In the beginning of Romans 13, which our lectionary skipped over, Paul instructs the people to obey the governmental authorities because they have been put in place by God. He says to “pay everyone what you owe them,” including their taxes, and then concludes with these words.

Don’t be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, Don’t commit adultery, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t desire what others have, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: You must love your neighbor as yourself. Love doesn’t do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let’s get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let’s behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don’t plan to indulge your selfish desires.

Lector **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the canticle.

Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon

BCP 94

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Common English Bible

Today's Gospel reading about conflict resolution in the church comes immediately after the parable of the lost sheep, where Jesus says that God is like a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to go after one sheep who has wandered away.

[Jesus said,] “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

Lector **The Word of the Lord.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. The preacher waits until they cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the sermon.

Sermon: The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector

A moment of silence follows the sermon.

The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

All 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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 97

Server The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Server Let us pray.

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

Suffrages B

BCP 98

Server Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

People **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Server Day by day we bless you;

People **We praise your Name for ever.**

Server Lord, keep us from all sin today;

People **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Server Lord, show us your love and mercy;

People **For we put our trust in you.**

Server In you, Lord, is our hope;

People **And we shall never hope in vain.**

Collect of the Day

Server Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

BCP 98

Server O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

BCP 100

Server O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

BCP 101

Server Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Community Prayers

For Birthdays:

BCP 830

Watch over **Ellen** Gromberg (5), **Rowland** Rebele (10) and **J.T.** Verbeck (11), O Lord, as their days increase. Bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Baptism Anniversaries:

Almighty God, through baptism you unite us to the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ and commission us for ministry in his name. As your servants **Joanne** Peterson (3) and **Bob** White (11) celebrate the anniversaries of their baptism, give them courage, patience, and vision, and strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Wedding Anniversaries:

BCP 431

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; send therefore your blessing upon your servants **Michael Gansäuer & David Pilcher** (2) and **Nancy & Walt Young** (5); that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For Travelers:

BCP 831

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel, in particular _____; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

All Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 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 Lord 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 Lord,
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Closing Versicle & Response

BCP 102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Concluding Sentence

BCP 102

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Serving Today at 8 a.m.

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller

Server: Chris Cottle

Lesson: Nelson Crandall

Epistle: Brian Raney

Gospel: Barb Raney

Scripture Introductions: The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller

Contact Information

Clergy

The Reverend Tracy J. Wells Miller, Rector

rector@st-john-aptos.org / (831) 708-6828 (text preferred when possible)

The Reverend Joan Anderson, Deacon

deaconjoan@st-john-aptos.org (new)

Church Office

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 am - 2 pm

Phone: (831) 708-2278 (Church main line- **Please leave voice mail!**)

Text: (831) 708-6850 (Office Manager's direct line)

Email: admin@st-john-aptos.org

Pastoral Care Line: 831-531-7152 (call or text)

For prayer requests, to notify the church of surgery or hospitalizations, to schedule meals or rides, etc. (Pastoral Care Committee members take turns answering this line.)

Clergy On-Call Line: 831-531-7187 (for urgent needs or emergencies, 24/7)