



F.M. RINES

SERVICE *of* MORNING PRAYER

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, October 11, 2020

This morning's liturgy is identical to the prayer service that Park Street Church conducts via Zoom five days a week (weekdays) at parkstreet.org/morningprayer. This service, drawn from our historic traditions as part of the Western church, proceeds without undue announcement. The word "liturgy" means "work of the people," and the congregation plays an active role in this liturgy. Instructions are indicated by the traditional symbol ¶, called a "pilcrow." The postures for prayer include kneeling, reflecting the many biblical invitations to kneel before God and even to fall upon our faces in his presence.

When worship was translated into the vernacular during the Reformation, the familiar Latin titles for Psalms and other standard texts were retained; for instance, we refer to the "Gloria Patri" not the "Glory Be to the Father;" some of these titles are used here.

The traditional designations "Opening Voluntary" and "Closing Voluntary" convey that these pieces are part of the service, not outside of it, for the purposes of this liturgy that otherwise has little music (due to the temporary suppression of corporate singing).

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Music is played upon the organ or by the musicians, preparing us in body and mind to enter into the Lord's worship. Today's voluntary is from J. S. Bach's sonata for violin in A minor, played by Natalie Boberg, violin.

¶ *The Leader begins the service with the following sentence from Scripture.*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. *Psalm 19.14*

CONFESSION OF SIN

¶ *The Leader says to the People*

Dearly beloved, the Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by his

infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in his presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at his hands, to declare his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things which are necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, draw near with me to the throne of heavenly grace.

¶ *Silence is kept. The people kneel. The Leader and People say*

Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;

and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare all those who confess their faults.

Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to

all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

¶ *The people kneeling, the Leader alone stands, and says*

Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *All stand*

INVITATORY

Leader O Lord, open our lips;

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader O God, make speed to save us;

People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Leader Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

People **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Leader Praise the Lord.

People **The Lord's Name be praised.**

VENITE

O Come

Leader The mercy of the Lord is everlasting.

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

O come, let us sing unto the LORD;

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the depths of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down,

and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95.1-7

Leader The mercy of the Lord is everlasting.

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

THE PSALM

¶ *The People recite the Psalm antiphonally. Those on the LEFT side of the sanctuary read the REGULAR type, and those on the RIGHT side of the sanctuary read the BOLD type. ALL read the Gloria Patri.*

107

Confitemini Domino

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever!

**²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**⁴Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;**

⁵hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

**⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

⁷He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.

**⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

⁹For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

**¹⁷Some were fools through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;**

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.

²¹**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

²²And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

All **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

*The Gloria Patri, or "lesser Doxology," is traditionally sung or recited at the end of psalms,
in order to place them in an explicitly Trinitarian frame.*

¶ *The people sit*

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21.4–9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *All stand and respond with this song of praise*

DEUS MISEREATUR

God be merciful

May God be merciful unto us, and bless us,
and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
indeed, let all the peoples praise you.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for you shall judge the peoples righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

God shall bless us,
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

Psalms 67

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

¶ *All sit*

SECOND LESSON

John 3.1-21

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ⁴“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *All stand and respond with this song of praise*

BENEDICTUS
The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Luke 1.68–79
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

¶ *The People remain standing for the prayer, then sit for the sermon.*

SERMON
Assumptions in the Dark

Michael Balboni

APOSTLES' CREED

¶ *The People stand and say together*

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come 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

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Leader Let us pray.

¶ *The People kneel.*

Leader Lord, have mercy upon us.

People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Leader Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 coming day's bread;

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into trial,

but deliver us from the Evil One.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever. Amen.

Leader O Lord, show your mercy upon us;

People **And grant us your salvation.**

Leader O Lord, guide those who govern us;

People **And lead us in the way of justice and truth.**

Leader Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People **And let your people sing with joy.**

Leader O Lord, save your people;

People **And bless your inheritance.**

Leader Give peace in our time, O Lord;

People **And defend us by your mighty power.**

Leader Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People **And take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

¶ *A Minister leads the People in prayer for the world, the church, the sick and suffering, and may invite the People to offer intercessions and thanksgivings silently or aloud.*

¶ *At the conclusion of the prayers, the People stand.*

THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

¶ *Greet one another in the peace of Christ, refraining from handshaking and maintaining physical distancing. Following the Peace, the People are seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

THE OFFERTORY

Leader For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. *2 Cor 8.9*

¶ *A hymn is played upon the organ or by the musicians. Today's hymn is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

¶ *All stand and pray together*

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.

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

¶ *The people sit. A joyous work is played upon the organ or by the musicians. The ushers will dismiss the people by rows, following the voluntary. Today's voluntary is a setting of the hymn, "This is My Father's World."*

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

Nathaniel Efthimiou, *Assistant Director of Music*

PRESIDING Julian L., *Minister of Missions*

PREACHER Michael Balboni, *Assistant Minister*

LAY READER Richard Ibekwe

ELDER Charles Peltz

MUSICIAN Natalie Boberg (*violin*)



PARK STREET CHURCH
Evangelical. Congregational. International.