

MORNING PRAYER

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REV. TERI WALDRON, PRESIDING
FEBRUARY 5, 2023



THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

OPENING PRAYER FOR PURITY AND COLLECT

PRESIDER: 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.

PRESIDER: Let us pray: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Silence is kept. Then all pray the confession together on mute, led by Assistant:

ASSISTANT: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "make straight the way of the Lord." So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith (John 1:23).

Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we get lost or turn away. We try to love our neighbors and ourselves, and even, by your grace, to love our enemies, but we fail. We take the wrong path and stray from the way of your love. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you.

PRESIDER: ✠ We turn to you, God of Love, and we accept your grace. We accept your pardon. We accept the gift of a new path, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LESSONS

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah [58:1-12]

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I
am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 112: 1-10

Please join Presider on mute in a responsive reading.

¹ Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, *
*and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.*

¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry;
*they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.*

THE EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from The First Letter of Paul
to the Corinthians [2:1-16]

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,

but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love
him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within?

So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL

PRESIDER: ☩ A reading from the Holy Gospel
According to Matthew [5:13-20]

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;

I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

May the words of the Gospel be made flesh in us.
Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

KINDLY KEEP ALL MICS MUTED DURING SERMON

Fr. Vincent Pizzuto, PhD



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All are invited to sit in silent communion with one another for 3 minutes. A bell will signal the end of our meditation.

THE CREED *Please join Presider on mute*

We believe in God, *Creator of all:*
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon
the earth and swim in the waters.

We believe in God, *One Who Walked with Us:*
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.

We believe in God, *Spirit with Us:*
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.

We hear God's voice through the prophets. Creator,
One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us.

Holy One: We are named in the waters of baptism as
your own, all of us related, all of us your children.

We watch for signs of your homecoming and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Presider will invite us all into small groups for several minutes to exchange a sign of peace and get to know one another. If you are new to St. Columba's we welcome you. If you are a member already, please extend a warm welcome to those in your group.

THE PRAYERS

PRESIDER: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Please pray responsively on mute, led by Presider:

PRESIDER: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Marc our Bishop in the Diocese of California, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God and their neighbors.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

PRESIDER: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

All are invited to voice prayers before the community or offer them in the silence of your heart.

[Unmute before speaking, then kindly mute again]

PRAYER RESPONSE:

PRESIDER: God hear us,

ASSISTANT: *God graciously hear us...*

PRESIDER: Lord God, hear the prayers of your people: those we have voiced in the presence of your Assembly, those we hold in the silence of our hearts, and those for which we have yet to find words. In gratitude and love, we entrust ourselves to you who knows better than we the deepest needs of our hearts. In the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us pray together:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through
the universe.
The way of your justice be followed by peoples
of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our
hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trial too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.

Amen.

PRESIDER: Savior, Redeemer, Beloved of God, clothe us in
your love, strengthen us to live gently on this earth, give us
humility to see all we encounter as precious to you, and
teach us to walk with kindness and patience this hour and
always.

Amen.

PRESIDER: ☩ May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us and scatter the darkness from our path; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Three-In-One and One-In-Three be upon us and remain with us always.

Amen.

PRESIDER: My siblings In Christ, let us go forth into the world to love and serve the Divine and each other.

Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE REACHED OUT
TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY!**

ONLINE DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO OUR WEBSITE **VIA PAY PAL**
OR CHECKS MAILED TO:

ST. COLUMBA'S INVERNESS

PO Box 430
INVERNESS, CA
94937

VIRTUAL CHAPEL ONLINE OFFERINGS

IF YOU ARE NEWLY JOINING US

**Please go to our website's VIRTUAL CHAPEL to access all of our
online offerings or to register your name and email to be
informed of our future offerings:**

www.stcolumbasinverness.org

NEED PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

Please Email Meredith Burrell

who can help direct your needs to the right person:

mburrell01@hotmail.com

ALL PARISH MEETING

TODAY, Zoom and in person

Immediately following this service!

ONLINE BOOK STUDY WITH DEACON ARI

What if Jesus Was Serious?

By Skye Jethani

Join Deacon Ari Wolfe to explore the teachings of Jesus we love to ignore.

February 10-March 3

Fridays, 3:30-4:30 pm, PST

See St. C's website for more info!

SHROVE TUESDAY VIRTUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21, 6-7:30pm PST

Prepare to cook pancakes and enjoy Mardi Gras fun and games!

More details soon!

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS SPIRITUALITY AND POETRY WORKSHOP

Zoom Workshop with our own Bob Hass and Brenda Hillman!

RESCHEDULED, March 18, 11am-3pm PST

Register on St. C's website!

**ALL SHALL BE WELL: A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH
JULIAN OF NORWICH**

Mondays, 4-6pm, PDT

March 13, 20, 27, & April 3

An online workshop with Veronica Mary Rolf,
medieval scholar, retreat leader, and award-
winning author.

Register on St. C's website!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS?

COFFEE WITH JESUS

Take few minutes to get your favorite morning beverage and return to us for coffee hour small group conversation.

