

**MORNING PRAYER**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**Sunday, January 24, 2021**



*We welcome Bishop Thomas J. Brown  
as our Celebrant and Preacher this morning.*

**St. Columba's Episcopal Church**

Boothbay Harbor, Maine



In this time of the Pandemic, we are changing and being changed.

What once was urgent in our daily lives is now put on pause.  
Other more immediate ways of living and dying are transforming us.

As we contemplate and experience our collective living and dying,  
we pray that we can be even more unified as One in God's Love all across the world.  
There is great hope in all that is happening in this world, we embrace it all.

Now in these unprecedented times, our world is hushed . . .

In the quiet and the chaos,  
we're witnessing the wellspring of new life, even in the midst of death.

All the world is now, perhaps for the first time ever,  
singularly focused on the healing of one another  
and the healing of "this fragile Earth, our island home."

Almost since time began,  
this is also the spirit in which our evenings always have begun.  
At this holy hour of twilight, we are hushed throughout all time,  
breathing in more deeply, lighting our candles, pausing at the end of the day  
together to pray into the love of God's welcoming embrace.

In this widened space at the end of the day,  
our prayers encircle the world continuously.

We rest into the power of quietness and the healing touch of God.  
As were all those who have gone before us, we too are comforted and calmed  
at this hour of twilight by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts,  
in each other, and in all creation.

As always, we welcome all to join with us in these timeless prayers.

So come as you are, let down your burdens,  
find your rest in God's expansive Love.  
This love is sweeping over you and all of Creation,  
sweeping 'round and 'round the world  
throughout all time and in all places.

Let us pray, this prayer offered up by our friends in Virginia,

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Loving God, our calm in the midst of raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others, even as your Son, O God of All Creation, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, dear God, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit's prompting, a renewed searching of the deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name of great Physician our healer, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://mailchi.mp/vts/a-prayer-and-worship-resource-pack-from-vts-2615050>

With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

## MORNING PRAYER

### Opening Sentences

*Book of Common Prayer pg. 76*

### The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A short period of silence will be kept.*

***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.***

### The Absolution

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

Lord, open our lips.

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

***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.***

**The Venite** *said by one person*

*Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
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.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**Psalm 27: 4, 4-9** *said by one person*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?  
And though war should rise up against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.  
One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;  
To behold the fair beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.  
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe  
in his shelter;  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.  
Even now he lifts up my head  
above my enemies round about me.  
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.  
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.

## THE LESSONS

### **The First Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 *read by one person*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **The First Canticle** The Third Song of Isaiah *read by one person*

*BCP pg. 87*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land;  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise,  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations Will stream to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open;  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord,  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land,  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation,  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day;  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

**The Second Reading** Matthew 4:12-23 *read by one person*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.’

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**The Second Canticle** The Song of Zechariah *read by one person*

*BCP pg. 92*

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 the  
shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
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 Sermon

*The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown*

### The Apostles' Creed *read by one person*

*BCP pg. 96*

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

The Lord be with you.  
***And also with you.***  
Let us pray.  
***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 daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.***



## Suffrages

BCP pg. 97

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
***And grant us your salvation.***

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
***Let your people sing with joy.***

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
***For only in you can we live in safety.***

Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***

Let your way be known upon earth;  
***Your saving health among all nations.***

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
***And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.***

## The Collects

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## Intercessions

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

BCP pg. 101

*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.*

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 102

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

Closing Sentences



*Please note that during this time of pandemic  
St. Columba's building is closed until further notice.  
Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church  
32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*

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OUR MISSION

To be a Safe Harbor In the Name of Christ  
For the Love of God ~  
Through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

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*The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown  
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*The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker,  
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