

A Service of Morning Prayer for Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Richard Hooker, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1600 - Commemoration



WELCOME

GATHERING

Leader: +In the name of God, the Creator, the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Grant to us, O God Most High,

All: the gifts of wisdom and understanding, that following the teaching of your servant Richard Hooker, we may cleave without compromise to those saving doctrines on which the faith of your Church is founded, and order all else most fittingly by the rule of love and the bond of peace; 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.**

Leader: Wonderous God, you have brought us to this thin place where heaven and earth embrace.
Here we bask in your peace and grace

All: **and open our hearts to your holy Word.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1 Corinthians 2:6-10, 13-16

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth:

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. 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 discerned spiritually. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Psalm 37:3-6, 32-33

3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; * **dwell in the land and feed on its riches.**

4 Take delight in the Lord, * **and he shall give you your heart's desire.**

5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, * **and he will bring it to pass.**

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light * **and your just dealing as the noonday.**

32 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, * **and their tongue speaks what is right.**

33 The law of their God is in their heart, * **and their footsteps shall not falter.**

God our strength, give us the humility to trust in your loving care, and the patience to be faithful in seeking your kingdom, that we may come to share in the inheritance of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL: John 17:18-23

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

One: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Passage about Richard Hooker taken from *For All the Saints* by The Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Reynolds

Richard Hooker was an English priest who died in 1600, and we remember him today as a theologian who defended the Church of England and its choice of “the middle way” between Roman Catholic and Puritan ideologies.

Hooker entered Oxford University in 1567 and for eighteen years devoted himself to scholarship and reflection on the subtle points of theology. He became deputy professor of Hebrew, was ordained to the priesthood, and appeared to be set on a purely academic career. But his learning, moderation, and commitment to the Church of England brought him to the attention of the authorities, and he was appointed Master of the Temple, an office of great prestige because it made him the chief preacher to the legal community of London. He held this post for six years, then resigned to become the rector of a parish near Salisbury. A few years later he moved to a rectory in the diocese of Canterbury, where he died at the age of forty-six.

**The Anglican Diocese of Niagara
Called to Life – Compelled to Love**

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He was a quiet man, loving to his wife and children, glad in his piety, and happy in his ministry. But the Church remembers him primarily for the one great work that he wrote — a majestic study entitled *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*. This work was addressed to a group of English protestants who were nicknamed Puritans because they sought to purify the Church of England according to their own narrow reading of the Bible. Against this movement Hooker argued for a more liberal outlook, which coordinated the testimony of Scripture, the course of Christian history, and the values of human reason, in order to defend the English Church as a communion for all the people, not just a small group of “saints.” The experience of our tradition has confirmed his teaching, and today we honour his work as a true cornerstone of Anglican history.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we make our prayer to you, saying, Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God the author of peace, send your Spirit, to empower the work of peace and reconciliation, of healing and harmony in our communities and throughout the world. We lift to you those places torn by conflict, that there might be a swift end to violence, recovery for the injured, and a process of listening and rebuilding that is life-giving for all.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Remembering the healing work of Christ, we pray for those entrusted with healing in our world today.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of mercy, as you hear the cries of those in need, may we hear clearly, the voices of the oppressed and in the power of your Spirit, become the hands and feet, the voices and the hearts, of change and liberation.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Jesus held nothing back, but gave of himself completely. Help us to give ourselves to the needs of the world and your mission in it; to give our time and energy, to give of our abundance and treasure, to offer ourselves in prayer, to offer our best, for your glory so that the sacrifice of love may give us a glimpse of your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: Creation testifies to your boundless imagination. We praise you for the beauty of the season, and the abundance of the harvest. We repent of those ways in which our living hurts your world. Help us to reshape our living in ways that honour your gifts of air and water and earth.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

One: Knowing your love, we lift before you, silently or aloud, those we know to be suffering at this time.

Silence is kept.

Grant to those we have named and those whose pain is known only to you, the comfort and healing of your Spirit.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: 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 echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the 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 trials 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 for ever.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

HYMN