

*Are you envious
because I am generous?*

MATTHEW 20:15

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required both inside and outside. If you do not have a mask you may use one of the pre-packaged masks located at the entrances or at the usher stations. (If a face mask was provided upon arrival, kindly deposit it in the specially marked basket at the exterior doors or at the usher stations as you leave so that it can be properly washed and prepared for use again.)

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave or at the usher stations outdoors prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave or on the lawn:

You may sit together as a family. Outside worshippers should place their lawn chairs using social distancing. Inside worshippers should sit in designated pews only. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

***For the outside service:** Communion positions are designated with a chalk cross marked on the sidewalks on Springettsbury Ave. and surrounding the lawn. Wearing your face mask, proceed to the closest sidewalk and take your place at a Communion position.*

***For inside services:** Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*

Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.

Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.

For all to receive the sacrament:

- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew/seat by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*

In our prayers we remember...

Marianne Moran, Rick Hock, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, Dana Sodor, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Abbie Gayle Guyton, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey .

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending your offering through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

Thank you to Victor Fields for the use of his sound system for the outdoor service.

Food Pantry—September

Items needed: Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meats, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dish and peanut butter. We are in need of volunteers for the summer. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.



Flowers This Week

This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Frances Bortner by Steve and Joan Langeheine; and in memory of Richard W. Haugh by loving wife Shirley and family.

STAFF

Pastor
Youth Director
Organist, Choir Director
Bookkeeper
Secretary
Sexton
Preschool Director

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
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| Deb Becker | director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com |

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost
September 20, 2020 8:00 & 10:30 AM
During the time of COVID -19

PRELUDE

Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

Charles Ore

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Sung by the Cantor*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . **Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sit

READING *Jonah 3:10—4:11* (back cover)

At the conclusion of the reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM *Psalms 145:1-8* spoken responsively by half verse

¹ I will exalt you, O | God my King,*

and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

² Every day | will I bless you*

and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*

there is no end | to his greatness.

⁴ One generation shall praise your works | to another*

and shall de- | clare your power.

⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor | of your majesty*

and all your | marvelous works.

⁶ They shall speak of the might of your | wondrous acts,*

and I will tell | of your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;*

they shall sing of your | righteous deeds.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,*

slow to anger and | of great kindness.

Stand

VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 20:1-6*

The Holy Gospel according to *St. Matthew*

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(back cover)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

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 into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

Continued on next page...

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Generous God, strengthen those who suffer for Christ (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need, (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them where you have led the way until you call us to join them around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

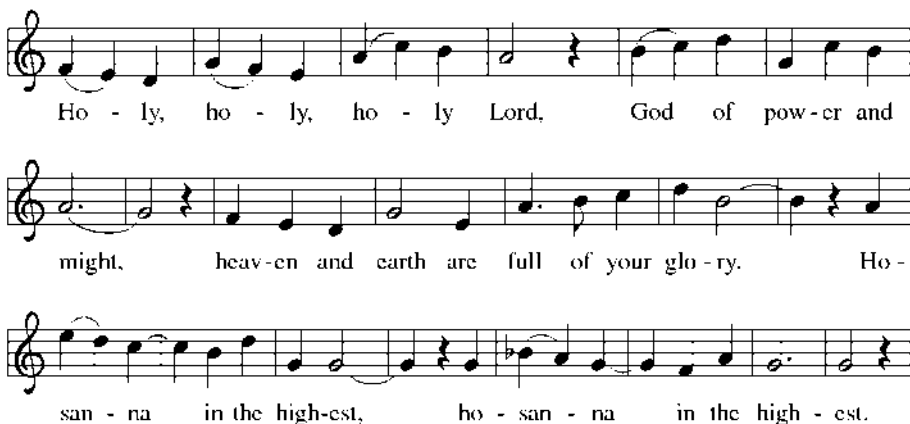
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

SANCTUS

Sung by cantor. Congregation joins at the "Blessed is he..."



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Congregation joins in singing



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,

gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FRACTION *a brief silence is kept*

AGNUS DEI *sung by the Cantor*

Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Stand

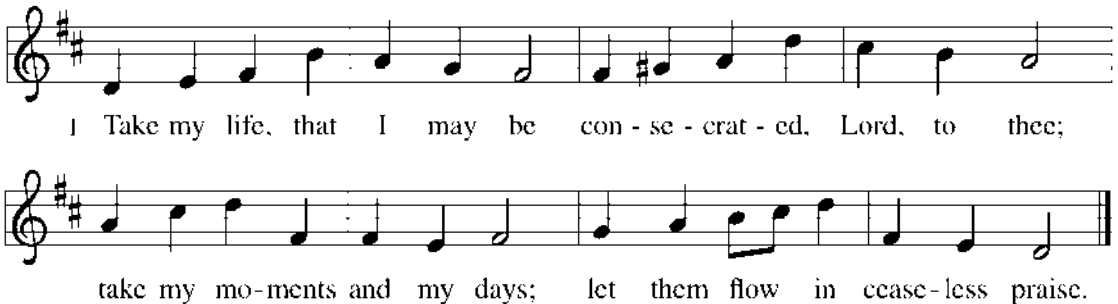
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN *Take My Life, That I May Be (Stanza 1 & 6)*



6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Let Us Join our Cheerful Songs

Helmut Walcha

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Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back in the basket or leave it in the pew.

If you were provided with a mask on arrival, kindly place it in the marked container at the exterior door. It will be laundered and returned for a future time.

NEXT SUNDAY September 27, 10:30 AM

“Glimmers of Hope” for Trumpet and Organ

by American composer James M. Stephenson.

Jonah Kappraff will perform “Glimmers of Hope” with Victor Fields next Sunday for the Prelude. While this is not strictly a sacred piece of music, the title could certainly apply a sacred meaning. In James M. Stephenson’s program notes he states, “Glimmers confronts the central issue straight away; that hope is necessary because of tribulation. We invite you to join Jonah and Victor next week to hear this powerful music. James Stephenson also wrote another composition for trumpet and band entitled “August in York”. Yes, York refers to York, PA as this music was commissioned in honor of Charles “Chuck” Long, longtime trumpeter with the York Symphony Orchestra

Mpuguso Meeting: Monday September 21, at 6:00 PM.—Christ Hall

Finance Meeting: Monday September 21, at 7:00 PM.—Good Shepherd Room

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, Christ Hall.

Helpers needed:

- **Ushers** are still needed during the Sunday Services.
- **Pantry helpers** are needed for Tuesday Food Pantry. Simply notify Larry or Janet Moore.
- **Tower Bell Ringers** are needed 15 minutes prior to the appointed service to Ring the Tower Bell.
- **Cantors** are needed for 8 and 10:30 AM liturgies.

Tuesday Evening Ministry—All Ages!

Because of Covid-19 and the uncertainty of coming inside the church building, Create, the Tuesday evening youth and family ministry night will now be held as video sessions.

Ms. Kelly will make 3 videos with craft and art projects based on 3 themes for fall, leaves to place on a tree for the healing of the nations, self-portraits for All Saints Sunday and crowns for Christ the King Sunday.

Victor will create 3 videos using household and kitchen items as percussion instruments to create rhythms with texts and words from scriptures and psalms.

Each of our videos will be sent out on Tuesdays as emails to our families and they will also be made available to view on our church website.

Finally, we will create a Gingerbread Nativity video with Christmas music. Gingerbread kits will be available for families to take home on Sundays, November 15, 22 & 29. Please call or email Ms. Kelly by November 1 as to how many kits you need for your household

Pastor Reep, Ms. Kelly and Victor feel this is the safest way currently to reach as many children and to have them stay involved from the safety of their own homes.

October 6 & 13

For the Healing of the Nations – All ages Miss Kelly will guide you in creating leaves to be placed on our tree “for the healing of the nations” based on the Revelation 22 text. The tree with the leaves that you make will be featured on Sunday October 18 in conjunction with the St. Luke Healing service.

Keep the Beat – All ages With a bucket, pot or pan and a wooden spoon from your kitchen, Victor will lead you in making music.

October 20 & 27

All Saints & Sinners – All ages Victor will teach the children a percussive piece with their pots and pans.

All Saints & Sinners - All ages Miss Kelly will teach you how to create a blind contour self-portrait, this will provide a creative release as you discover new things about how you appear.

November 10 & 17,

Crowns for the King – All ages Follow along with Miss Kelly in Making glorious crowns that you can wear or place around the cross for Christ the King Sunday, November 15

A Royal Beat – All ages Join Victor in making music that is fit for King Jesus!

December 1

Family Gingerbread Nativity – Everything needed to construct a gingerbread nativity scene will be provided. All you have to do is preregister and pick up your supplies at church on November 15, 22, or 29. You will get an email from Victor and Kelly that you can follow to have an enjoyable time with your family making a sweet delicious scene based on God’s sweet love for us.

Parents—Watch for your next issue of *Spark Family Magazine* which you should be receiving in late September. St. Paul's Church provides for this subscription to be sent to your home four times a year to help in your faith journey with your children. Please enjoy this time learning together. Watch for further ideas in the October newsletter.

Personal and Family Devotional ideas during these challenging times. Did you know that our Lutheran Book of Worship has more than hymns inside? Some of the other resources include, Psalms, prayers for many occasions and, special prayer services. Spark Story Bibles (used in Sunday School by our children) are also available. Stop by the Good Shepherd Room to borrow a worship book and or a Children's Bible that you can use at home.

Discussions on the Letters to the Philipians

Four Monday evenings at 7:00 PM via ZOOM, September 21, 28 October 5, 12. Join Pastor Tom McKee in conversations on Paul's letters to the church in Philippi! St. Paul wrote letters to the Christians in Philippi to encourage them to keep the faith during difficult times. Pastor McKee will give some historical background. Participants will be invited to share what stands out to them and then reflect on what this means for their lives.

Proper 20 A, 2020 Pastor's Sermon Jonah 3:10-4:11 Matthew 20:1-16

You would think that after a five year renovation and building program undertaken at St. Paul's, that I would have reached my limit for construction, renovation, innovation, and new builds. But there is some part of my inner being that is fascinated by the building process, the planning, design, decisions, execution, and financing of such projects. Maybe you have heard that our sister congregation in Tanzania, Mpogus Lutheran Church, is beginning their own new building project. They are busting at the seams with worshipers coming to know Jesus. They don't seem to have another option. They have added extra times for worship but the desire to come to the house of the Lord and to be together as the body of Christ has pushed them into a giant whole in the ground as they prepare the foundation for a new generously proportioned worship space.

A few weeks ago I discovered the British TV series *The House that 100K Built*. Needless to say, it is a show on building and I was hooked. Kieran Long, architectural historian teams up with Piers Taylor, UK architect helping couples and families with their self-build projects. *The House that 100k Built*: is a series that takes a look at some of the low-cost building and renovation methods used to create really amazing spaces on a budget. (I know that you are secretly sitting there thinking "I wish he would of seen this before we renovated St. Paul's!") Kieran and Piers follow prospective self-builders around the UK as they work to realize their dream homes.

I especially like the bits when Piers, usually it is Piers, he is the more opinionated and less diplomatic one of the Kieran – Piers duo. There comes a point in the show when he asks the sell-builders why they are settling for ordinary, dingy, cramped spaces that without any additional cost or expense, could be generous light filled, robust spaces in which to live and move and have their being. He is all about generosity, generosity in creating space, generosity in volume of light, generosity in use of material. By now you have figured out that I have zeroed in on generosity as we address the readings from Jonah and Matthew; the generosity of God to forgive the people of Ninevah, the financial generosity of the landowner in the parable of the vineyard.

With last week's sermon on forgiveness and this week's sermon on generosity, I said to Emily on Wednesday evening as she was washing up the remainder of the dinner dishes at the kitchen sink "I should have planned an alphabet sermon series for this fall. We have had a sermon on Ezekiel, one on Forgiveness, the one I am preparing for Sunday on Generosity..." and before I could say another word she looked up from the sink and said "and the next week you could do one on the letter H " there was a pause and she said "Hope." "Oh hope I retorted" pretending that I too was thinking H for Hope!

Today is a day when we are enveloped with the goodness of God's generosity. Not only to the horribly rotten to the core people of Ninevah (from the perspective of Jonah) but also in dealing with the labor force in the laborers in the vineyard. Like a self-build project not always knowing which part to start with, where to focus your beginning energy, we are catapulted into the story of the prophet Jonah who doesn't want to do what God asks him to do.

We pick up the story after Jonah has spent three nights in the belly of a great big fish. We have already witnessed how Jonah attempts to run from God's mission. How he decided that God's mission was not right for him and so he would go a different direction. And we know how that turned out. He spent time on board ship with sailors, was thrown overboard, was swallowed by a fish, was spewed out on the dry ground, conveniently at the entrance to the city of Ninevah, the place where all of the horribly rotten to the core people of the earth were concentrated, right there in Ninevah. Jonah, knowing that running from God's mission didn't work out so well for him; he followed through by announcing to the great city of Ninevah that it was high time that they repented for their horribly rotten to the core ways. That God wants to forgive them and set them on a new path. A path that does not lead to a core that is horribly rotten but that leads to lives that are generously filled with the robust goodness of God. With God they can really live and move and have their being. And when the people of Ninevah heed the message sent to them through Jonah, God relents and does not destroy them or their city. That is good news.

And that is where we encounter Jonah when the Old Testament reading begins. Jonah is displeased and angry. Jonah is annoyed at God's graciousness, at God's mercy, at God's being slow to anger, and Jonah doesn't seem to appreciate God's steadfast love. Why God's ability to see something other than the ordinary, dingy, cramped, horribly rotten to the core lives of the people of Ninevah is greeted like the creative insights Piers Taylor offers to first time self-builders in the UK. It seems that generosity is so often greeted with suspicion, is feared, there must be a catch. Jonah pleads to the Lord God to take his life. He is so distraught over the outcome of the Ninevah mission. The Lord continues to care for Jonah by appointing a bush to grow up and providing a generous canopy of shade to protect Jonah from the scorching heat of the sun. Jonah perked up a bit. The next day God appointed a worm to come along and consume the green leaves so that the bush withered away. Jonah thinks it is better for him to die than to live. He just can't grasp the capacity of God's generosity.

It was a similar scene that day with Peter when Jesus told the parable of the landowner and his generosity toward the laborers. Some worked all day, some half a day, some a quarter of a day and some barely made it out into the vineyard when they were called in and were given the day's wage. All received the same daily wage. And the grumbling broke out against the landowner's generosity. The laborers can't grasp the capacity of this one's financial generosity. Some of us would rather die than to allow for generosity. It nearly kills us to think that God sees the horribly rotten to the core people (from our perspective) as having worth, value, and needing love.

It is a similar scene when God pours forth the Holy Spirit on the likes of us. We don't like to think of ourselves as horribly rotten to the core individual's living in York County. We like to think that we are the laborers who have spent the entire day in the vineyard; or the ones who have faithfully carried forth God's mission into the world. It is easier for us to live ordinary, dingy, cramped turned in on self-lives, than to listen to the words of God's messenger, who comes on the scene with a generosity that cannot be matched. Christ Jesus gives himself for us so that we can live and move and have our being, not encumbered with sin, the horribly rotten to the core stuff that keeps us from him and from our neighbors. Generosity, God's generosity dominates the lives of the people of Ninevah, dominates the lives of the laborers in the vineyard, and dominates our lives through the suffering death and resurrection of his Son, Christ Jesus.

Jonah would rather die than to live with such generosity from God. The laborers in the vineyard would rather grumble than live with such generosity from the landowner. The couples and families showcased in the TV series *The House that 100 K Built* often choose ordinary, cramped, dingy spaces than the generous suggestions of Kieran and Piers. And how will we live? Choosing death, grumbling, rejecting life giving suggestions, or with the knowledge of a gracious God, who is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love? God makes such generous mercy, generous patience and generous love known through Christ Jesus. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Psalms 145:1-8

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

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