ST. JAMES HOUSE OF PRAYER
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TAMPA, FL

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)
August 30, 2020

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Opening Hymn (v. 1, 2, 5)

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham Praise, who reigns enthroned above;
He by himself hath sworn; we on his oath depend;
The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;
we shall, on eagle wings up-borne, to heaven ascend:
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” they ever cry;
the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed;
we shall behold his face, we shall his power adore,
hail, Abraham’s Lord divine! With heaven our songs we raise;
we bow and bless the sacred Name for ever blest,
and sing the wonders of his grace for evermore.

all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

Hymnal, 401
Opening Acclamation

Officiant  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
People    And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity (in unison)

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.

Canticle of Praise  

Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God)  

lyrics on screen

The Collect of the Day

Officiant  The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.
Officiant  Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading  

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’. This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

Lector  The Word of the Lord.
People    Thanks be to God.
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c (in unison)

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
   make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, * 
   and speak of all his marvelous works.
3 Glory in his holy Name; *
   let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
   continually seek his face.
5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
   his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
   O children of Jacob his chosen.

23 Israel came into Egypt, *
   and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
24 The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
   he made them stronger than their enemies;
25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
   and dealt unjustly with his servants.
26 He sent Moses his servant, *
   and Aaron whom he had chosen.
45 Hallelujah!

The Epistle Reading Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn Speak, Lord, I’m Listening lyrics on screen

The Holy Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him
aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Deacon    The Gospel of the Lord.
People    Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon   The Rev’d Dr. Steve Clifton

After the Sermon, we take a few moments to reflect on God’s word to us.

The Nicene Creed (in unison)   BCP, 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, 
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, 
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, 
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. 
Through him all things were made. 
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: 
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. 
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; 
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, 
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, 
who proceeds from the Father and the Son. 
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. 
He has spoken through the Prophets. 
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. 
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. 
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In today’s gospel, Jesus invites us to follow him. As he laid down his life in intercession for the world, let us pray on behalf of people everywhere, saying ‘Lord, strengthen us.’ 
For all people of faith who struggle to believe in the promise of life amid the clamor of death, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, strengthen us.
For the church, which must bear witness to the possibility of taking up the cross and following Jesus, and for its leaders, particularly Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Steve, our priest; Lynn, our deacon; and all the faithful of St. James House of Prayer, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, strengthen us.**

For those who are losing their souls in the pursuit of worldly gain, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, strengthen us.**

For those laying down their lives in faithful dedication to God’s call, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, strengthen us.**

For those who lead the nations, especially Donald, President of the United States; Ron, Governor of Florida; for our legislatures, courts, local officials, and government agencies, that they may seek justice for the least among us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, strengthen us.**

For those celebrating special days or special blessings this week, particularly Marvin Martin, Sr. on his birthday and Navita & Julius James on their wedding anniversary, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, strengthen us.**

For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and for those who minister to them, particularly

- Fr. Al Chapman
- Bernice Hodgins
- Mitch Leggett
- Wayne Kennedy
- Maria & Kiah

and all who have lost their homes, jobs, or loved ones in Hurricane Laura, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, strengthen us.**

For all here present who will one day be judged by God’s standards and meet Christ coming in glory, and for all the departed especially Alphonso Simmons, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, strengthen us.**

Most high God, your ways are not our ways, yet your ways bring life. Hear the petitions of your assembled people. Pour out on your world the faith to hear your call and the courage to answer it. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

**Deacon**  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Deacon and People**

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.

**Priest**  
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 Peace

**Officiant**  The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**   And also with you.

The Officiant says a sentence from Scripture to begin the Offertory. An anthem or music may follow.

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**All are encouraged to make an offering in thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed.**

Gifts may be made on the parish website, sjhoptpa.org, or by texting sjhop to 73256, or by postal mail to:

**St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church**

2708 N. Central Ave., Tampa FL 33602

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**Offertory Hymn**

**What Wondrous Love is This**

**Hymnal, 439**

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**Officiant**  And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:

**The Lord’s Prayer (sung)**

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**THE SENDING OUT OF THE LORD’S PEOPLE**

**The Blessing (pronounced by the Priest; the People respond, Amen.)**
Closing Hymn

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

Hymnal, 675

1 Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be; take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.
2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm; his strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still; the Lord for you ac-
4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and calmly every danger brave; it guides you to a-
5 Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Please remember in your prayers:
-- all who have lost their homes, jobs, or loved ones in Hurricane Laura
Fr. Al Chapman Camden Agboglo Betsy Chapman
Bernice Hodgins Olive McDonald Lydia Williams
Mitch Leggett Vernescia Williams Michelle Mentis
Wayne Kennedy Lucia Frett Denise Andretta
Maria & Kiah Ann-Marie Greenlee

-- The repose of the soul of Alphonso Simmons (brother of Patrick Thomas)

Please give thanks for:
Birthday: Marvin Martin, Sr. (8/31)
Anniversary: Navita & Julius James (9/1)
Prelude Music:
There’s Something About That Name (#107 in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)
Music: William J. Gaither
Copyright: © 1970 William J. Gaither
This is the Day (#219 in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)
Music: Les Garrett

Title: The God of Abraham praise
Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt.

Title: What wondrous love is this
Meter: 12 9. 12. 12 9
Words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835

Title: Take up your cross, the Savior said
Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt.
Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b.