

**Zoom Morning Prayer**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton MA**  
**January 9th, 2022**

**Opening**

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us,  
to your holy hill and to your dwelling. Lord, open our lips O Lord,  
and our mouths 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 forever. Amen.**

**Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino***

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due the divine name; \*  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.**

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon,

**6 and makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the Lord \*  
splits the flames of fire;

**8 the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"

**10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign for evermore.**

11 The Lord shall give strength to this people; \*  
the Lord shall give this people the blessing of peace.

*At the end of the Psalm the following is recited:*

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Shared Scripture Reflection using African Bible Study Method from Lambeth Conference (1998)**

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)**

***Question: What word or phrase catches your attention? Each person who wishes to do so shares the word or phrase with the group, without discussion.***

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Question: What word or phrase catches your attention? Each person who wishes to do so shares the word or phrase with the group, without discussion.**

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (Contemporary English Version)**

***Question: Where does this passage touch your life today? Each person who wishes to do so shares briefly with the group, without discussion.***

Everyone became excited and wondered, "Could John be the Messiah?"

John said, "I am just baptizing with water. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His threshing fork is in his hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the wheat in his barn and burn the husks with a fire that never goes out."

While everyone else was being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. Then as he prayed, the sky opened up, and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you."

***Question: Where does this passage touch your life today? Each person who wishes to do so shares briefly with the group, without discussion.***

**Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 (The Message)**

***Question: From what you have heard and shared, what do you believe God wants you/us to do or be? How is God inviting you/us to change?"***

The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, "Could this John be the Messiah?"

But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

**Question: From what you have heard and shared, what do you believe God wants you/us to do or be? How is God inviting you/us to change?"**

### **Collect for the Day**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Creating God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those suffering with addictions and mental health challenges.  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*(Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here)*

*Presider:* Eternal and all-loving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:  
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Sending**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in  
believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*  
*Romans 15:13*

### **Blessing**

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