



**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020**

**Morning Prayer
at ten o'clock**

**THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS**

**~ Taking place online via our YouTube channel –
To access, please visit us at our website:
christchurchandover.org ~**

Voluntary

"Adagio e dolce" from Trio Sonata III, BWV 527

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Hymn 494, verses 1, 4 & 5

Crown him with many crowns

Diademata

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
 2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
 4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign, who
 5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; Crown

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
 2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
 3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
 4 once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran - somed sin - ners slain, now
 5 him the King, to whom is given the won - drous name of Love. Crown

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu - man breast, and
 3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
 4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing their
 5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be - fore him fall, crown

1 hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
 3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 4 songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
 5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) Music: *Diademata*, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1970, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Opening Sentence

Officiant Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:2

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant 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.**

Officiant 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 and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

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

Officiant and People

**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 Invitatory: Venite [Hymnal S-35]

Setting: Jack Noble White (b. 1938)

1. Come, let us sing to the
 Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal -
 va - tion. 2. Let us come be-fore his pres-ence with thanks - giv - ing
 and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. 3. For the
 Lord is a great God, and a great King a - bove all
 gods. 4. In his hand are the cav-erns of the earth,
 and the heights of the hills are his al - so. 5. The
 sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have
 mold - ed the dry land. 6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the
 knee, and kneel be-fore the Lord our Ma - ker. 7. For
 he is our God, and we are the peo-ple of his
 pas - ture and the sheep of his hand.
 Oh, that to - day you would heark-en to his voice!

Psalm 103:1-13

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

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 Lessons

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Romans (14:1-12, NRSV)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die,

we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector Here ends the reading.

Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah [Hymnal S-213] *Ecce, Deus*

*Setting: Plainsong, Tone 3;
adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947)
acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)*

Antiphon



Sing the prais - es of the Lord, for he has done great things.

1. Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not
be a - fraid. 2. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de - fense,
and he will be my Sa - vior. 3. Therefore you shall draw water
with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal - va - tion.

4. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call
up - on his Name; 5. Make his deeds known a - mong the peo - ples;
See that they remember that his Name is ex - alt - ed.

6. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world. 7. Cry aloud, inhabitants of
Zi - on, ring out your joy, for the great one in the

midst of you is the Holy One of Is - ra - el. [Ant.]

(Gloria Patri may be omitted)

Glory to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

A Reading from The Gospel according to Matthew (18:21-35, NRSV)

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Lector Here ends the reading.

Homily The Rev. Michael J. Hodges

Solo With Verdure Clad (from *The Creation*) *Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)*
Kerrigan Bigelow, soprano

*With verdure clad the fields appear delightful to the ravished sense;
 by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight.
 Here vent their fumes the fragrant herbs; here shoots the healing plant.
 By load of fruits the expanded boughs are pressed;
 to shady vaults are bent the tufty groves;
 the mountain's brow is crowned with closed wood.*

Text: Gottfried van Swieten (1733-1803)

The Apostles' 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 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

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

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Suffrages A

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People **And grant us your salvation.**
Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People **Let your people sing with joy.**
Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People **For only in you can we live in safety.**
Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;
People **Your saving health among all nations.**

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

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. **Amen.**

Hymn 470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Beecher

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: Beecher, John Zundel (1815-1882), alt.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Alan and Gayle, our bishops, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
 Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
 Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, especially Rita, Anne, Rich, Sarah and Zab, Richard and Lucy, Jeff, Meredith, Debbie, and those family and friends of parishioners who have been commended to our prayers, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Heather Sullivan, Stephen Pelletier, Pat Cavallaro, Kathy Dow, and David Ferre.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who begin a new academic year, especially those who will learn in new places and in new ways this year. Pray that those who teach and those who learn may be guided and encouraged by your Spirit.

Silence

I invite your prayers and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence.

The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Announcements

Voluntary

In Dir ist Freude (In Thee is gladness), BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach

Everyone is Welcome at God's Table ~ Christ Church Andover

Serving at Today's Service

The Rev. Jen Vath, officiant

The Rev. Michael J. Hodges, preacher

Barbara A. Bruns, organist

Kerrigan Bigelow, soloist

Chris Wagner, lector and intercessor

Matt Calnan, videographer

THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH

25 CENTRAL STREET

ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 01810

PHONE: 978-475-0529

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHANDOVER.ORG

EMAIL: INFO@CHRISTCHURCHANDOVER.ORG

Permission to podcast and reprint the words and music in this service obtained from OneLicense, License #A-734148. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Portions of the service of Morning Prayer taken from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain.