



Pentecost
in a
Time of
Quarantine

Praying

Worshipping

Connecting

Church of the
Holy Comforter
Montgomery, AL

What we have to offer

We have now entered what we call “ordinary time” or the Season after Pentecost, when the liturgical color is green. This is the growing season when, once again, we stop each Sunday to consider what it means to be both disciples, that is, followers of Christ, and also apostles commissioned to carry the Good News to the ends of the earth. The life we are called to is not easy, and often, it seems like Matthew’s words are uncompromising, almost strident, as he describes what the work of ministry and mission is like. It helps to remember that Matthew tells the Good News in the shadow of the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. In a time more harsh than many of us have ever known, we can find relief and hope in a version of the Gospel that makes very little effort to white-wash or minimize the cost of discipleship, but also assures us, as Jesus assured his friends at the very end of the Matthew, “remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” May this be a season when we grow strong, sure and confident in God’s love as we answer the call, by saying, “Here I am. Send me.”

Today, here’s what this eService Leaflet includes:

1. The readings from Isaiah, Romans, the Psalm and the Gospel.
2. Links to live-streamed worship services for the Sundays after Pentecost. We will also include links you can turn to during the week for refreshment and prayer.
3. As always, at 8 tomorrow morning we will post a short video on Facebook and our webpage.

I miss and love you!

Rosa+



Music – Randy Foster

Prelude

Rendez a Dieu

Robert J. Powell

Postlude

Be Thou My Vision

Improvisation



The Readings

The Collect

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Psalm 86:11-17

11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
12 I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.
13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.
14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.
15 But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted
me.

The Epistle

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when



the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him,

‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn’

“Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Links

In this season, what we called the growing season, Jesus is tireless in describing what it means to be a disciple and apostle. He is unsparing when he describes the challenges and the costs. But through the parables and through his continued ministry of healing and hope to those around him, he inspires all of us to want to seek first the Kingdom of God. We include all the week’s readings in our eService Leaflets hoping you too will find the glimpses of God’s Kingdom that encourage your work of discipleship.

Click [here](#) for Washington National Cathedral’s Sunday Holy Eucharist online, July 19, at 10:15 AM (cdt),

For Rosa’s Sunday morning video, visit our Facebook page [here](#). Also available on our website, [here](#).

For daily meditations from Forward Day by Day, [click here](#). Or to listen to a prayer, [here](#).



Activities

Please be sure to join our Zoom gathering Sunday, July 19, at 11:30. The link to our gathering is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84762612605?pwd=ZXBHEYXZDY2ZVMHhhaL1piMmhmVnZlZD09>

Meeting ID: **847 6261 2605**

Password: **846329**

You can also call in to join the gathering by dialing **1 312 626 6799** and providing the above meeting ID and Password.



Parking Lot Sunday Liturgy

WHEN: Sunday, July 26 TIME: 9 AM

We have adopted some health dept. guidelines to avoid risk of viral transmission. Our top priority is keeping everyone safe. We will be sending a service leaflet and mask in the mail to bring to the service. Since we are leaving our engines and AC running, and in order to avoid dead batteries, the liturgy will be short and sweet! Set your radio to 95.9 FM to listen to Randy's music.

Guidelines are as follows:

- ◆ One car for each household and everyone should have a mask.
- ◆ Please use the Woodley Road entrance; the Fisk Road entrance will be blocked off.
- ◆ We will have ushers outside directing cars to a parking space. Please resist the urge to roll your window down and speak—waving is encouraged.
- ◆ Everyone should remain in their car with their masks on and windows rolled up (double protection).
- ◆ Once you are parked, leave your car running and set your radio to 95.9 FM and turn up the volume.
- ◆ There should be no passing of objects or physical contact between cars.
- ◆ Don't forget your service leaflet or mask!
- ◆ The church doors will be locked and no one will be able to enter; please use the bathroom before you come.
- ◆ And if you feel the least bit sick, please stay home and get well.