

Dear friends: Welcome to St. John's Richmond! Tonight we complete our Summer Sermon Series, 'The Story of God'. It has been marvellous indeed to follow the living God's multi-faceted character and mission for the past nine weeks: He creates, reveals, promises, becomes human, saves, fills us with his Presence, builds and sends his Church with the Gospel, and finally, due to the work of Christ on the Cross, re-creates everything that was lost in the fall of humanity. His salvation is stunningly beautiful and comprehensive and creative, and that is because He is!

Next Sunday we will put a 'bow' on the series by examining Psalm 150 ('The God Who is Praiseworthy'), before launching into our fall series on Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia. Now is a good time to remember to pray for how you might be involved in a weekly Community Group, this Fall. It has been said that "the kingdom of God moves at the speed of relationships" and if this is true (and there is a lot of truth in it) then investing in relationships which encourage us during the week is quite essential. A guide to Community Groups will be made available in early September.

I'm thankful for each of you, and how God has been at work in us this summer.

Warmly, Sean

## **TODAY'S SERVICE**

**LITURGY AND LYRICS** will be on-screen and are available online by using the code:

**BIBLE READINGS** Revelation 21:1-8 Psalm 122 Revelation 22:1-5 Lara Adesanwo

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH** After the children (K-grade 6) come forward for prayer, their class meets upstairs; the children will be returned to their parents near the end of or just after the service. Youth Group are on summer break!

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OFFERING** We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from our church family! Please use the offering plate or give online, using the code. If you are visiting SJR, simply be our guest.

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS**

Mary Jensen

## **NOTICES**

- Sunday Evening Bible Study continues this evening, following the service, from 8-9pm.
- Wednesday Morning Prayer continues this week and into the autumn, from 8:30-9am each week, held on Zoom.
- Ratanak Ride To Freedom Challenge is less than one month away: Saturday, September 20. Walk, run, or bike to raise money for this important charity, working to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking in Cambodia. A dedicated SJR email concerning this event, and how to sign up with our SJR group, has been sent out with full details and links; you can also speak with Brian or Louise McConaghy, or touch base with other SJR participants like Bob Hart, or Chris & Reagen Wright.

## **Welcome to St. John's Richmond!**

Our desire is to joyfully love and serve Jesus Christ and share him with our neighbours.

We are excited to gather on Sunday Evenings for this special way to worship God at the end of the day and the beginning of the week. If you are new to us, please stay for refreshments so we can introduce ourselves to you.

As Anglicans, we use liturgy (structured prayer) to walk through the wonderful story of who Jesus Christ is, and what God has done for us through his life, death, resurrection and reign. The music, readings, prayers and participation are arranged to help us rehearse the good news ('gospel') of salvation: our new life in Jesus.

Our Evening Prayer and Holy Communion services follow patterns set out in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), developed in the 1500's during the English Reformation by Thomas Cranmer. About 88% of the BCP is directly taken from the Bible.

The best reason to use these classic liturgies is that they remind us of our sin, point to the grace of Jesus Christ, and invite us to respond in faith. This is the pattern of our prayers, and the pattern of the Christian life.

Want to find out more about us? Pick up the "Introducing Anglican Worship" booklet at the Welcome Table, and email us at "contact@stjohnsrichmond.com" to ask any questions or sign up for our weekly email update.

## WELCOME

## OPENING SENTENCES

**OPENING HYMN** *(All lyrics will be screen-shared)*

## CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

## CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore them who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

## **A DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN** *(said by the Minister)*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, has empowered and commanded his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.

He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe his holy Gospel. Therefore let us ask God to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that what we do now may please him, and that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **RESPONDING WITH PRAISE** *(Spoken)*

O Lord, open thou our lips;

**And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*(Standing)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord!

**The Lord's name be praised!**

## SONGS

## **FIRST BIBLE READING** *(Bible Readings are found on Page 1)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER WITH THE CHILDREN

## **PSALM OR CANTICLE** *(found on Page 1)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

## **SECOND BIBLE READING**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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 Apostles' Creed is an historic profession of faith in the faithfulness of God, and locates us in a community of faith stretching back to the early Church. It is a theological summary of apostolic doctrine, originating before the 4th century and ratified by the 7th.

## SERMON

### OFFERING SONG and PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.**

The Lord be with you;

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

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 them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY & any additional COLLECTS *(printed on Page 1)*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knows our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, grant to us for the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## NOTICES

## CLOSING HYMN

## BENEDICTION

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night, and at the last a perfect end; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us this night and forevermore. **Amen.**

The Story of God concludes but never ends

Context: The Marriage of Heaven and Earth

Features of the New Creation:

God's Place: new Jerusalem

God's People: saved and satisfied

God's Presence: dwelling and seeing

Responding to the New Creation