

# San Jose Episcopal Church Hymn Festival October 2020

## God's Church for God's World

God's Church for God's World is the theme for the Lambeth Conference 2020, a decennial gathering of Anglican bishops from around the world. This service upon which this Virtual Hymn Festival is based has been devised by the Very Rev. Simon Aiken.

### Gathering Hymn: 594 God of grace, and God of glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient Church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, alt.; Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes, Arr. Samuel Metzger

### Prayers of Penitence

We are called by Jesus to be his Body, the company of faithful people, the Church. Yet we find ourselves set in the World, God's World, a World with tempting sounds and sights which would draw us away from the calling set as a seal upon us at our baptism. 'Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.' *1 Peter 5.8-9*

In order that we may resist the evil one who corrupts and destroys what God has made the World to be, let us first call to mind our own shortcomings and failings as disciples and as Church. Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. *1 Peter 2.1-3*

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. *1 Peter 2.4-10*

### Listening

The Church is called to proclaim Christ to the World, but she is often deaf to him and fails to encourage recognition of him in human society. If the Church were truly to hone her spiritual 'sixth sense,' perhaps she would both hear the yearning for God's agenda in the political life of the world and find a renewed voice in the ordering of society.

### Reading: 1 Peter 2.13-17

For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor.

**Hymn: O God, show mercy to us**

- 1 O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;  
And cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,  
So that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,  
And unto every people your saving grace be shown.  
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;  
In every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.
- 2 For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,  
And on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.  
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.  
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.  
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,  
And all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

Words: The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, alt.; Music: *Thaxted*, Gustav Holst

**Witnessing**

The Church is called to proclaim Christ to the World, but when the World is unable or refuses to hear, that witnessing to Christ may call the Church to suffer, individually or corporately. The Greek word for such witness is *martyrion*, from which we derive the word martyr. A martyr is primarily one who witnesses, but that witnessing may involve suffering and even death in order that the World may see and hear Christ. The challenge to each disciple is to measure the depth of our faith in Christ and ask if we could say: For Christ, I am prepared to die.

**Reading: 1 Peter 3.13–22**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**Hymn: 460 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! (1, 3-4)**

- 1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.
- 3 Alleluia! bread of Heaven, Thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
Thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.

Words: William Chatterton Dix; Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard,  
Last verse harmonization and descant: William D. Gudger

## Walking

An African proverb states: *If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.* Walking alone gets the job done quicker but does not necessarily convince many about its importance or benefit. Walking at the pace of the slowest gives time to reflect on purpose and support and strengthen each traveller. In African terms: *Ubuntu*, I am because you are. Neglecting the dignity and heritage of each will weaken all, and cause many to fall along the wayside.

## Reading: 1 Peter 3.8-12

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

## Hymn: 599 Lift every voice and sing

- 1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light; keep us for ever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
Shadowed beneath thy hand may we for ever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson; Music: *Lift Every Voice*, J. Rosamond Johnson

## Prayers

The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. *1 Peter 4.7–11*

## Prayer of Intercession

Bring your *peace*, Lord God, to all peoples. Give your Church confidence to proclaim Christ, the Prince of Peace, in all places of discord and disunity. Let the World know that you are creator of all, you brought order out of chaos at the beginning of creation and now summon all things to your symphony.

God, you bring all our exile to cease, your paschal Lamb, Jesus, pays the price of our sin through the shedding of his blood; let your Church proclaim that the World’s *redemption* is won and each is brought to the promise of a home in this age and a place prepared in the age to come.

Life-giving God, your vibrant Spirit at Pentecost brought understanding to those of many tongues; fill our lives with songs which tell of the *praise* that is rightly due to your name. Let the World be drawn by your Church to recognize you as worthy of all the glory and worship we can imagine and devise.

Incarnate God, your Son, Jesus, calls us to follow in your steps, for you are the way, truth and life; guard our steps along the path of *faith* so that trusting in you as guide we may not slip into temptation but rather call the World to your narrow way.

Mighty God, in the glory of Easter you establish your **victory** over sin and death. No more shall terror beset us, no more shall the World exercise fear over us, for you have overcome the World. Give your Church boldness to demonstrate your supremacy in her acts of love and service that raise each one to the heights of heaven.

Loving God, whose mercies are endless and whose compassion never fails; bring your **comfort** to all who experience the cruelty and victimization of others. Give consolation to the sick and the grieving. Call to your eternal heart the departed of every age and reward your Church with holy ones and witnesses who will teach the World of your love.

**Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi** *As we Pray, So we Believe, So we Live*

Our prayer forms our belief, and what we believe (as the Choristers' Prayer puts it) we are called to 'show forth in our lives.' For this to be so we have to will it. We have to want to accept the challenge to live Christ-focused lives. This desire for God's will to be done in our lives may involve disobedience to the world and therefore suffering at the hands of a world which shuns Christ. In all of this, the Lord's Prayer becomes our rock and our point of connection in the relationship we have with God. 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done' must be our touchstone in the decisions we make and the trials we endure.

**Reading: 1 Peter 4.12-19**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And 'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?' Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Let us commit ourselves, as God's Church, to live God's life in God's World. As forgiving and forgiven people, let us be absorbed into the heart of God. As dependent creatures may the praying of this prayer free us from self to recognise God's sustaining bounty.

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Sending Out**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Hymn: 376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee**

- 1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke; Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven, adapt. Edward Hodges, alt., Arr. Samuel Metzger  
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