



**Morning Prayer**  
**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 21, 2021 9 am**  
**The Spring Equinox**  
**Prayers for The Good News Nursery**  
**Ministers of the Liturgy**

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee  
Mary Frances Best, Mary Johnson,  
Cathy Poch, Ann Marie Lockwood

**Musicians:**

Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Cathy Poch, Jeff Lukas

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. [Psalm 51:10]*

**Prelude**

*Intonation*

Conrad Paumann

**Mother Judith Opening Prayer**

Ever-surprising, ever-faithful, ever-merciful Lover of creation, you lavish us with an abundant variety of flowers and animals. You fill your world with tulips and woodpeckers, with forsythia and robins, with redbuds and bluebirds, with storm clouds and open sky. You show yourself to us in all these things, filling our lives with your generous grace, the unmerited gift that is our life in you. Renew once more the covenant you made with our ancestor, put your love within us all and write it deeply upon our hearts, for we would be your people and you shall be our God. Amen.

**Mother Judith: The Confession**

Lord Jesus, you come into our lives when we are least prepared for you. As you enfolded your betrayers, so embrace us who struggle to love. Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers, and for the sake of your love forgive us all our sins.

**Absolution:**

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

**Mother Judith The Invitatory and Psalter**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

*Lord Have mercy upon me.*

*Christ has mercy upon me.*

*Lord have mercy upon me.*

**Mary Frances Best    Psalm 119:9-16**

9 How shall we cleanse our ways? \*By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; \* let me not stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your promise in my heart, \*that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; \* instruct me in your statutes.

13 With my lips will I recite \*all the judgments of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees \*than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments \*and give attention to your ways.

16 My delight is in your statutes; \*I will not forget your word.

**Mary Johnson    A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah    [31:31-34]**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Ann Marie Lockwood    A Song of Christ’s Humility: Philippians 2:6-11**

Though in the form of God, \* Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,

But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, \* and was born in human likeness.

Being found in human form, he humbled himself \*

and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him \* and given him the name above every name,

That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, \*

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, \* to the glory of God the Father.

## **Cathy Poch**      **A Reading from the Gospel of John**      **[12:20-33]**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

### **Homily**

## **Mary Johnson**      **A Song of Faith**      **1 Peter [1:3-4,18-21]**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*

by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, \*

we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.

The ransom that was paid to free us \* was not paid in silver or gold,

But in the precious blood of Christ, \* the Lamb without spot or stain.

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory \*

so that we might have faith and hope in God.

### **Musical Meditation**

*All things bright and beautiful*

Hymnal #405

*All things bright and beautiful, creatures great and small,*

*All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,*

*He made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.*

*All things bright and beautiful, creatures great and small,*

*All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all*

## **Mother Judith    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.

## **Mother Judith & Mary Johnson    The Prayers**

Show us your mercy, O Lord; **and grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness; **let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care; **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth; **your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten; **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God; **and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **Mother Judith    The Lord's Prayer**

## **Mother Judith    Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Ann Marie Lockwood & Mary Frances Best    The Prayers of the People**

Our Savior Jesus Christ promised to draw to himself all things in heaven and on earth. Let us pray, therefore, that the peace accomplished through the Cross of Christ may be brought forth in our own world and in our personal relationships. Let us pray for the Church and the world and for peace among all nations. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, especially the young migrants at our borders, that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, for those who lack access to basic education, and for the light of knowledge to shine in the lives of all God's people.

*Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for an end to our divisions and inequalities, that we all might share in the blessings of your creation. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the health of men, women, children, persons, and families around the world.

*Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for an end to the waste of God's creation, for access to natural resources to be shared equally among all people, and for resolve to conserve our resources. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own community at Trinity, in thanksgiving for the blessings of our fellowship, in hopes that those who seek healing of body and spirit will find peace with us.

*Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the departed, particularly those who have died as a result of COVID-19 and those who were murdered in Atlanta this week, and those we now name, silently or aloud;

*Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Most merciful God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we may find it the way of freedom and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Musical Meditation**

*Jeff Lukas*

### **Mary Johnson   A Prayer for the Good News Nursery Ministry**

Bless the garden of your Church, O God.

Guide those who plant and tend it. Protect the young, strengthen the flourishing, and make us fruitful in ministry and mission.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Bless the gardens of the world, the soil and rain and sunshine, and the work of all who sow and reap. Give abundant harvests, and teach us to share them with justice.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Bless the gardens of our community, the shelter of families, the fragrance of friendship. In all our care for one another, make us grow in wisdom and love, in gentleness, kindness and truth.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Lord of the harvest, make us faithful stewards in the labor you have called us to share, planting and cultivating, planning and protecting, and offering to you the return that you require, through our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Musical Meditation**

*In the bud there is a flower*

*Cathy Poch, Soloist*

### **Cathy Poch      A Prayer for Women's History Month**

Spirit of renewal, God of many names, we turn this month to reflect on the stories, the heritage and the struggles of the women throughout the ages. May we pause before the silences of the ages, find who has been left out, and craft new ways of inclusion for every week, and every month. May this month of reflection teach us to search for those stories that are different from our own. May we come to know ourselves changed, renewed where we are dry, hopeful where we are lost, and open where we are shut. **Amen.**

### **Ann Marie Lockwood      A Prayer in Time of Transition**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

### **Mary Frances Best      A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of almost 550,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear and impatience. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Mary Johnson      A Prayer for the Spring Equinox**

*The Brigidine Sisters*

As we mark this time of equinox, may we find the balance we desire and need in our lives: – light and dark, spirit and body, mind and soul. May we recognize the promise of rebirth both within and all around us. Let us wonder at the Mystery that is Life and open ourselves to the blessings of both dark and light. **Amen.**

### **Mother Judith   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.**

### **Mother Judith   Blessing**

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Mother Judith   Dismissal**

Go now to follow the way of Jesus: see others as he did; dare to give freely as he did; to resist temptation as he did; and to love unconditionally as he did. **Thanks be to God.**