



# 15th Sunday after Pentecost

A Service of Morning Prayer

Sunday, September 13, 10:15 am

## Welcome

*Greetings, Friends and Neighbors of St. Timothy's. Thank you for joining us for our worship service.*

## Opening Sentence

Psalm 105:1

O give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

## Confession

Let us humbly confess our sins to God and one another.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

## Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Liturgical Greeting

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

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

*Officiant and People*

**Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever Amen.**

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: **Come let us adore him.**

## Psalm 114

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, where they lived as strangers,  
Judah became the place where God lived and Israel became God's kingdom.  
Even the sea could see it was in God's presence, and the waters ran away.  
The Jordan River saw God coming and turned around and went the other way.  
**All the earth is in awe in God's presence.**

The mountains were skipping and hopping like rams and the little hills were frolicking like lambs.  
That got into you, O sea, that you ran away from God?  
And you Jordan, why did you turn around?  
Why were you skipping and hopping like rams, you mountains?  
And you lambs, what were you frolicking about?  
**All the earth is in awe in God's presence.**

All the earth is shaking in awe of God's power and at the presence of the God of Jacob.  
It was God who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and stone into a spring of flowing water.  
**All the earth is in awe in God's presence.**

## Lesson

Genesis 1:1-2:2

*Reader* A Reading from Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth had no shape at all. There wasn't any light. The water was in total darkness and God's breath moved back and forth over the sea. God said out loud, "Let there be light." And there was! He separated the light and the darkness and called the light "daytime" and called the dark "nighttime." That was the very first day. "This is good," God said.

Then he worked on separating the water from the sky. That was the second day.

God said, "Let's put all the water on the earth together in one place and call it 'sea' and the places of dry land we'll call 'earth.'" He called them "seas" and "earth." God was very pleased with how things were coming together. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth plants and trees. Let's have plants that grow food! Great!" God said, "This third day was very good."

God said, "Now let's put some order to the light in the skies. We need something to separate day from night, and days from years, and seasons from seasons." And it was so. The big light is the sun, which we see in the day, and the smaller light is the moon. Then God made all the stars in the sky. That was the fourth day.

God said, "I'd like to see some living creatures –like fish in the sea and whales and all kinds of birds in the sky. Let's make some huge sea monsters that live way down deep, and then some little fish who like to flip out of the water. Oh, I've got so many great ideas about animals. Let's make them all." Every kind of animal that crawls or runs or flies was made by God. And God was delighted. He blessed them so that they could multiply, and said, "Please, fill up the oceans with the things that swim and fill the skies with birds." That was the fifth day.

God said, "Now, let's see. What kind of animals should live on the dry parts? How about cows, and bugs, and cats? And all kinds of wild animals." And the earth was filled with every kind of animal he could imagine. And God saw that it was really, really good.

Then God said, "Let us make people in our image, who are more like us; and they can take care of the earth and the seas and the animals and the birds in the air and the fish in the sea." So God created man and woman. He blessed them and told them to be productive and have children so there would always be someone to take care of God's creation. God explained that they could use the plants to feed themselves.

God stepped back and looked at everything. Such excellent work! That was the end of the sixth day. On the seventh day, God took a break, blessed and declared that day a day of rest. That rest felt very, very good.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### A Song of God's Love

Canticle N, 1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, \* for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, \* for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, \*

that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \*  
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, \* we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, \* and God's love will be perfected in us.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter had another question for Jesus. "If someone at my church hurts my feelings, how often do I have to forgive him? Is seven times enough?"

Jesus laughed at Peter, "Seven times? You've got to be kidding! More like seventy-seven times, I'd say. Let me tell you a story about forgiveness."

Jesus continued: There was a man whose slaves owed him some money. One who owed him \$10,000 came to the owner and told him he had no money to pay him back. So the man said he'd have to be sold, along with his family and everything he owned, to make up for his debt. But instead his debt of money had been forgiven.

That same slave whose debt had been forgiven ran into a fellow slave who owed him \$100. He grabbed him by the throat and said, "You pay me what you owe me or else."

His fellow slave fell down on the ground and pleaded with him, "Please have patience with me I promise I will pay you. Give me some more time."

But the first slave refused and threw his fellow slave into prison until he could pay the debt. All the other slaves were very upset when they saw this because they knew that the first man had been unfair. The owner listened to your story and forgave you. Shouldn't you have done the same when someone owed you money? You make me so angry, get out of my sight."

God, your heavenly Father, wants you to forgive from your heart, even as you have been forgiven.

*After the reading*

*Reader* Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

Rev. Mary Cole-Duvall

## Creed

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## The Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

## Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

**We thank you, Lord.**

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

**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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

## Peace

*Officiant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## Announcements / Minute for Mission

## Faith Sharing

## The General Thanksgiving

Officiant

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.**

## Prayer of Peace

You call us beloved. We belong to you.

You created us in your image; through your very breath you formed us.

Through your Son Jesus, our Teacher, You taught us to call one another beloved, because in belonging to you, we belong to each other.

You told us to see your image in the faces of the forgotten and the oppressed.

Through you we became one family; through your Spirit, we breathe the same breath.

Free us from that which keeps us from perfect love of our neighbors,

Because loving our neighbors is the same as loving you.

Help us to recognize your image in the faces of others.

## Blessing

## Dismissal

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Today's readings are from the children's lectionary book.*

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Thank you for worshiping with us today.  
You are welcome join us - staying on this link - for coffee half-hour.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering Partner for September

JOPPA HELPS HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, FIND HOUSING AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES. They collaborate with families, individuals, churches, corporations, and others to help homeless people access existing resources and mobilize private donations to meet unmet needs in homeless services, housing, and education.

St. Timothy's has been partnering with Joppa for years in a number of ways. You can find out more about how to engage with Joppa at their website [joppa.org](http://joppa.org).



This weekend, we will hear more about how we've been serving the homeless through Joppa.

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## Adult Formation Opportunities

**Bible Study:** We resume in-person Bible Study on Thursday, 9/17, at 10am. If the weather is good, we'll be meeting outdoors on the patio in front of the church office doors. If the weather is crummy, we'll meet in the Parish Hall. We are limited to 10 people but we hope to fill up each week!!! We're starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> by reviewing where we left off in our study of Paul: A Biography by N. T. Wright. We'll be masked and distanced from one another for COVID protection, but close enough to have a productive discussion (we hope!). If you are interested in attending, please email Deacon Jeanie ([deacon@sttimothyiowa.org](mailto:deacon@sttimothyiowa.org)) and let her know.

**Adult Forum:** We will also be resuming Adult Forum, but in a couple of new ways:

**NEW! Lectionary Reflection and Discussion begins Monday September 14** (and will continue through Advent). There will be an email and a posting on our closed Facebook page containing ways for you to engage the scriptures from the previous Sunday's worship. Our hope is that these questions will be a guide to hearing God speaking with you over the course of your week. The prompts will include both adult appropriate and kid friendly material. Then on Wednesday, September 16, 7 -7:45 pm you are welcome to join a discussion about these wonderings. Our time will end at 7:45 pm with compline. A Zoom link will be included in Monday's email and on our closed FB page.

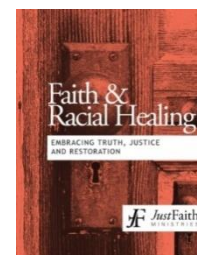
Questions about the Lectionary Reflection and Discussion, contact Abigail Livingood at [abigail@cornstalkstudio.com](mailto:abigail@cornstalkstudio.com)

We're also going to try to get together in person occasionally to explore some "Half Truths" – These are familiar sayings, such as "God won't give you more than you can handle," that might contain some truth or really might be envisioning a God we don't believe in. Interested? Please let Deacon Jeanie know.

**Books, Brew & Banter:** We're on Zoom each Friday morning at 10am. This Friday, 9/11, we're starting a discussion of Ann Patchett's The Dutch House. Grab a cup of coffee and join us. If you need the Zoom invitation, contact Deacon Jeanie ([deacon@sttimothyiowa.org](mailto:deacon@sttimothyiowa.org)).

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Faith and Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice & Restoration  
Deacon Jeanie and McB McManus are co-facilitating the next 8-week section of JustFaith's Faith and Race curriculum. We will meet by Zoom from 6:30-8:30 on Wednesday evenings. We begin on October 7. If you'd like to register, we'd love to have you join the class!! To register: <https://csm.coursetorm.com/>



## A Call to Action

Ways we can faithfully wade into the waters of race, inequality, and justice. Here are some options:

- Listen. Try listening to points of view that are new and strange to you. Listen hard with everything inside you trying to understand.
- Read. There are a host of books that address these issues. Among them: The Racial Healing Handbook by Anneliese A. Singh, How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi, and White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo.
- Learn. There are any number of ways you can do this. One way is to attend a Dismantling Racism training session, hosted by our Diocese. Check out those and other offerings using the link in your weekly e-news.
- Stand Up and Advocate. Demand criminal justice reform and reforms to our health care systems that so unfairly burden people of color.
- Pray. Really concentrate on listening for God's voice as you ask what you can do.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For or those in service to our country: Scott, Jack, Zach, Marshall & Reece;

For those seeking ordination: Abigail Livingood;

For those ordained to the diaconate: Eric Rucker;

For those who are sick or in need of healing: Rosemary, Marty, Jovan, Kris, Troy, and Lu;

For those celebrating a birthday: Liz Brennan, Isabel Hodges, Michelle Hall, Tamara Menke, Chloe Wright, Chase O'Connell, and Abby Luhrs;

For those to be married: Sarah (Larson) & Alex, Jessie & Andrew (Marshall), Dana & Zach (Slocum), and Molly & Joe (Brennan);

For those celebrating an anniversary: Jeanie & Bill Smith, Deanna & Joe Nobis;

For those awaiting the birth of a baby: Krystal & Sean Coffey and Erin & Ryan Steenrod;

For our 2nd Offering Partner in September: Joppa; and

For the Episcopal Church in Sudan & South Sudan especially Archbishop Samuel and Bishop Richard and their families.

## OFFICE HOURS & ACCESS

ALL VISITORS TO OUR BUILDING ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS.

Currently, our offices are closed to the public. The office phone is staffed from 9 am to noon, Tuesday through Thursday Messages will be returned as soon as possible.

Pastoral Care Emergencies can be called in to 515-225-2020, ext. 400.

## GIVING

While we are unable to worship together, we can still share the generous spirit that permeates our community. Here are ways you can continue to give:

Online: [www.sttimothyiowa.org/giving](http://www.sttimothyiowa.org/giving)  
Pledge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering & More

By Mail:  
Regular Pledging/2nd Offering  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
1020 24th Street, West Des Moines IA 50266

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## Safety Guidelines for our Services

The health and safety of our worshipers and of those who participate in conducting services is of critical importance to Clergy and Leadership at Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church and School. To ensure all involved are safe we are:

- Holding services primarily via internet, with few exceptions;
  - Strictly observing CDC social distancing guidelines in recording sessions or live services;
- Affirming participants who choose to wear masks or gloves;
  - Recording readers individually or at safe distances; and
- Recording our organist and vocalists individually, while our videographer is at a safe distance.

