



SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

306 N. Division Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • www.standrewsaa.org

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Morning Prayer • Proper 8

Dear friends:

Forty years ago, in another turbulent time, the small Anglican Church in Iran was one of the casualties of the Revolution in that country. Many of its members and clergy were imprisoned, killed or forced into exile. Church-sponsored schools and hospitals were closed, and property was confiscated. Their bishop and his wife barely survived an assassination attempt in their own home, and within days left Iran never to return. A few months later their twenty-five-year-old son, Bahram, who had remained in Iran, was kidnapped by government operatives and shot. Unable to return to Iran for his son's funeral, Bishop Dehqani-Tafti wrote this prayer for the occasion. His words still speak of a profound faith for our day.

O God

We remember not only our son but also his murderers;

*Not because they killed him in the prime of his youth and made our hearts bleed
and our tears flow,*

*Not because with this savage act they have brought further disgrace on the name
of our country among the civilized nations of the world;*

*But because through their crime we now follow thy footsteps more closely in the
way of sacrifice.*

*The terrible fire of this calamity burns up all selfishness and possessiveness in us;
Its flame reveals the depth of depravity and meanness and suspicion, the dimen-
sion of hatred and the measure of sinfulness in human nature;*

*It makes obvious as never before our need to trust in God's love as shown in the
cross of Jesus and his resurrection;*

Love which makes us free from hate towards our persecutors;

*Love which brings patience, forbearance, courage, loyalty, humility, generosity,
greatness of heart;*

*Love which more than ever deepens our trust in God's final victory and his eternal
designs for the Church and for the world;*

Love which teaches us how to prepare ourselves to face our own day of death.

O God

Our son's blood has multiplied the fruit of the Spirit in the soil of our souls;

So when his murderers stand before thee on the day of judgement

Remember the fruit of the Spirit by which they have enriched our lives.

And forgive.

- The Rt. Rev. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti (1920 -2008)

God bless,
Fr. Alan

Watch this service on YouTube:

Sunday, June 28 at 10:00 am

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkK2EnnuhP_EECpxvvjO_zw

Then join us for Coffee Hour on Zoom:

Sunday, June 28 at 10:45 am

Log-in information for this Zoom meeting can be found in the Saturday emails with the eService Bulletin or you can send an email to Fr. Alan: agibson@standrewsaa.org.

We look forward to seeing you online!

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-718890.

Announcements

As we enter Phase 2 of the plan to reopen churches, a revised directive has been issued by the Diocese. (The entire plan is available [here](#).) If you read through the plan carefully you will see that there are clear limits on the number of people who can gather in the church for services, as well as stringent sanitizing procedures that must be followed.

With these requirements in mind, and with the fact that the Covid-19 virus is still active, and no proven treatment or vaccine is available, **St. Andrew's will not reopen the building for public worship at this time.** The Breakfast will continue as a take-out service, as it has been since March.

As much as I would love to return to worshipping with you in person, that does not seem prudent right now. As the summer progresses, we will continue to reevaluate our options and make adjustments as they are warranted. In the meantime, I hope you will join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am for a service from the church, followed by a Zoom Coffee Hour at 10:45 am. The eService Bulletins and Church School Faith At Home will continue to be made available each week.

Fr. Alan

Give Online with WeShare

Did you know you can pay your pledge or give a general offering to St. Andrew's online? Visit <https://standrewsaa.weshareonline.org> to set up recurring or one-time donations!

Automatic Withdrawal of Offerings (ACH)

ACH is established for St. Andrew's through Bank of Ann Arbor (BoAA). There is no cost to you for using this service and you do not have to have an account with BoAA. ACH withdrawal is made once per month, mid-month, and has the fewest service or transaction fees of any online giving option.

If you are interested in establishing ACH as your giving method please visit <https://standrewsaa.org/donate.html> to download our ACH form.

The completed form and a copy of a voided check can be mailed to the church or emailed (*including an image of the voided check!*) to our Finance Administrator at ktuckergray@standrewsaa.org. *All information will be safeguarded to retain confidentiality.*

To follow along with the service please use the Book of Common Prayer, starting with page 75.

An online version is located at <https://www.bcponline.org>

Prelude: *Chant de Paix* Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Opening Hymn: *Now that Daylight Fills the Skies* Hymnal, no. 3

Preces Hymnal, no. S-33

Invitatory / Venite Hymnal, no. S-35

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”
- 15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout! *
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.
- 16 They rejoice daily in your Name; *
they are jubilant in your righteousness.
- 17 For you are the glory of their strength, *
and by your favor our might is exalted.
- 18 Truly, the Lord is our ruler; *
the Holy One of Israel is our King.

Old Testament: Jeremiah 28:5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times

prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

Canticle: *A Song of Creation*

Hymnal, no. S-228

The Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Sermon

Fr. Alan Gibson

In the Name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

“As for the prophet who prophesies peace...”

Oh my, how lovely it would be to hear words of peace. In the days of the prophet Jeremiah the people of Jerusalem and Judah yearned for that. It had been a long time since they had known peace or even talk of it. A little over a century earlier the people of Judah watched as their cousins to the north, in the state of Israel, were overrun and absorbed into the Assyrian Empire. It had been a tense frontier ever since. In 597 BC their own country, and its capital Jerusalem, had been invaded by the Babylonians who had overthrown the Assyrians. The king of Judah and most of the leading citizens, along with a load of booty, including treasures from the Temple, were hauled off to Babylon. A puppet king was installed to rule over the vassal state. The people waited, hoping the worst was over.

They did everything they could to get life back to normal, including self-administering a big dose of denial. Part of that was to seek out voices that told them what they wanted to hear. One of those voices came from the prophet Hananiah, who we meet today in the lesson from the Hebrew scriptures. Hananiah somehow avoided the first set of deportations. (Apparently, the Babylonians didn’t think he was all that important.) He rose to prominence in the court of the new king who was harboring his own fantasies of throwing off the Babylonian yoke.

Meanwhile, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, turned his attention to other concerns, which allowed Judah some breathing room and its people a vague sense of hope for better times, maybe even freedom and peace.

Haniah stepped into this opportunity and claimed that within two years Judah would reclaim its former glory with their exiled king would be returned to his throne in Jerusalem.

Two years! Just two years?

- To reverse the moral decline that desecrated the Covenant.
- To undo decades of corruption.
- To resolve conflicts with their hostile, more powerful, neighbors.
- To turn back the gross inequities that had arisen in Judean society where power and resources had gravitated into the hands of a few, leaving most people to struggle.

Only a miracle of Divine intervention could bring about such things! Who did Haniah think he was fooling? Yet who wouldn't embrace such a vision? Who wouldn't grab on to such hope when hope was in such short supply?

Well, one man wouldn't. One man knew that such easy words, such easy solutions to such difficult problems were not going to pour down from heaven all on their own. One man knew that if the leaders of Judah would not act in the interests of their people, and if the people would not take personal responsibility for their transgressions, outside forces would shape the course of events in ways no one expected. Jeremiah preached this with complete, sometimes brutal, clarity.

Jeremiah came from a long line of prophets, but he stands out as the most unpopular and gloomiest of the prophets of doom. He made no attempt to hide the fact that he hated his job. But what was he to do? He had to work with what he was given and felt compelled to tell the truth, in its entirety. Jeremiah lived in an exceptionally difficult time when internally Judah was coming apart at the seams, and externally new threats were increasing. Jeremiah's message that 'Business as Usual' was no longer an option, no matter how much anyone wished it were, won him no friends. In fact, it nearly got him killed. God warned Jeremiah that he would be challenged by a false prophet proclaiming peace to the people at no cost to themselves. (You can find more to this story in Chapter 27). Jeremiah knew that's not how it works.

Believing that they had a claim to special status among the nations, Judah had allowed itself to go down a self-defeating path. A complete reform was in order, far more than a few encouraging words of peace would ever bring about. Judah was to be broken before it could heal and rebuild.

Jeremiah alone understood this and delivered his message to people who refused to listen and who would pay dearly for it.

Today's scene is one of the most poignant in Jeremiah's ministry. He quietly takes in his rival's empty words, beautiful, hopeful though they were, and even offers something of a blessing on them. Peace, restoration, prosperity – oh, if it could only be true! Maybe, one day, says Jeremiah; believe it when it happens. Until then his people would have to learn anew what it means to be a people of God. That was not going to happen overnight. In fact, it was not going to happen in a generation, or even two. Jeremiah planted the seed, which would lay dormant for a long time. Within a decade all the major players in this national drama would either be dead or forced into exile, and Jerusalem would be destroyed. Jeremiah knew things would not end well for him or his generation, but he also knew that someday his words would help a new generation find its way back to the life God wanted for them. The process began with him and those willing to listen to his difficult words, take them to heart, and allow their hearts and lives to be reshaped by them.

People tend not to change very much unless they are forced to; this has been true for humanity from the beginning. It's not for a lack of opportunity. No society, nation or community has ever been able to claim perfection, yet we have more power to do good than we often realize, we just tend to be reticent to use it. If we more often took the initiative to use our power to make change for the good rather than accepting our denial that change is needed, then force would not become necessary.

The people of Jerusalem and Judah in the days of Jeremiah the prophet wanted peace, yet they chose to use the power they had to reinforce the very things that would make peace impossible, and lost everything in the process. If anything can be learned from this tragedy it is that God always offers another way.

Apostles Creed

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 96

The Prayers

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Anthem: *Give Me Jesus* Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
O when I come to die, give me Jesus. You may have all dis worl', give me Jesus. Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. You may have all dis worl', give me Jesus.

General Thanksgiving Book of Common Prayer, pg. 101

Prayer of Chrysostom

Concluding Versicle Hymnal, no. S-54

Closing Hymn: *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name* Hymnal, no. 345

Postlude: *Nun Danket alle Gott (Marche Triomphale)*
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Directory Updates: Changes Due Friday, July 10

Directories will be mailed directly to your home in September so please **make sure we have your current address!**

In the last year, did you or members of your household...

- ▶ **Move to a new house, apartment, or condo?**
Let us know your new mailing address!
- ▶ **Disconnect your landline?**
Please be sure to give the office your cell phone number so that we can reach you.
- ▶ **Switch to a new cell phone number?**
Don't forget to tell us whose cell phone it is.
- ▶ **Have a child?**
Congratulations on your new addition!
We'd love to know their name and birth date.
- ▶ **Change your preferred email address?**
If you'd like to be added to our email list for parish announcements and eService Bulletins, please let Kathy know.



If you need to update any part of your directory listing please email Kathy at kmcperson@standrewsaa.org.