

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!

Pride Sunday

June 26th, 2022

PRELUDE

SONG OF PRAISE & PROCESSIONAL

#14 – O Bless the Lord My Soul

Words: James Montgomery;

Music: St Thomas (Williams),

mel: Aaron Williams; harm: Lowell Mason

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT

Priest Alleluia. Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People *Glory to God forever and ever. Alleluia.*

All *God, who made me in Your image,
teach me to love myself as You love me.*

*God, who made me in Your image,
allow me to show that image to the world.*

*God who made me in Your image,
help me to see Your image in all those I meet.*

*God, who made me in Your image,
teach me to conserve and protect all Your creation. Amen.*

Please be seated.

FIRST MESSAGE

Written by poet Joy Ladin

Lay Leader Let us prepare ourselves to hear Joy Ladin's words.

People ***Our hearts and minds are open.***

Lay Leader The Torah doesn't tell us what being created in the image of God means or explain how human beings are similar to the invisible, disembodied, time- and space-transcending Creator of the universe. That, to me, is the point of reading God and the Torah from a transgender perspective: to better understand the kinship between humanity and the inhuman, bodiless God in whose image we are created, a God who does not fit any of the categories through which we define ourselves and one another. From the time I first read Genesis, as a child who knew that I didn't fit the male/female binary, it has been clear to me that the "image of God" has nothing to do with sex, gender, human differences, or human bodies. If our goal is to recognize our kinship with God, we need to look to the aspects of humanity that can't be conceived in terms of gender, to the ways in which we, like the God and whose image we are created, exceed or confound human categories.

We don't have to identify as transgender to engage in this effort. But being transgender forces me and many transgender people to recognize the ways in which we don't fit human categories, because the aspects of ourselves that don't make sense in terms of binary gender are the heart of our sense of who we are. Like God, we are used to being present and either invisible or seen as incomprehensible and sometimes terrifying. We are accustomed to living in the wilderness, beyond the bounds of binaries in the world that is based upon them. It can be lonely there, and hard, but according to the Torah,... it is often in that window wilderness were human beings come closest to God.

Lay Leader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

GRADUAL **#1 - African Processional** Vs 2-5: *Brt Hesla*

*Collected: Elaine Hanson
Arr. Ralph M. Johnson*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Lauren Plummer

Lay Leader Holy One, today we celebrate Pride — the gift of living into the fullness of who you have created us to be.

People ***Bless all who celebrate this weekend with joy in the knowledge that they belong.***

Lay Leader We come with gratitude, Holy Mystery, for all the ways you are known to us and for all the ways you confound our comprehension. We give thanks to you, gender-bending God, who is both mother and father and still between and beyond all our categories of understanding. We celebrate the queerness of Spirit that beckons us out, to new horizons of hope and fuller communion with your being.

People ***We give thanks, we give thanks for all the ways that Love finds us.***

Lay Leader And as we celebrate, keep within in us the memory that Pride is also protest — a prophetic witness to the struggle of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, and every non-conforming ancestor who has gone before us. We remember today that joy and love dancing are courageous acts of sacred resistance:

People ***A testament to the goodness of your creation, a celebration of triumph over the forces of dehumanization and shame.***

Lay Leader With gratitude, we call to mind the faces of all the holy trailblazers, in our own lives and in our larger story, who fought and suffered much, who modeled wisdom and compassion to show us how wide and inclusive Love's welcome is. We hold these people in our hearts.

People ***Bless and keep also the saints among us now — those still using their gifts to speak out in myriad ways and showing us the the continuing revelation of beloved kin-dom.***

Lay Leader This morning we remember especially those for whom living authentically has meant loss and grief. We remember those struggling to come out to themselves or their loved ones. We remember those who have been cast aside by family and friends, those abused and silenced, and all lives cut short by shame, stigma, and prejudice.

People ***Forgive us, O God, when we let fear shrink our hearts and we try to place limits on your boundless love. May we keep striving to make a world where all people know dignity and can enjoy a life of love and health and equal rights.***

Lay Leader We pray that this remembering will strengthen our commitment to create sanctuary and deep welcome for those who have been marginalized. May our worship increase our awareness of grace — that we might give and receive it more freely with one another and all those we encounter.

People ***And may our worship reveal the work that is ours to do.***

SAINT MARY’S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

*Lay Leader invites people to offer concerns and thanksgivings in person or in chat.
If the podium is inaccessible to you please wave to the Priest and they will bring a mic to you.*

Priest O God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, in whom we live and move and have our being.

People ***Amen.***

Please stand or choose another posture of reverence that is comfortable for your body.

PEACE

Priest The Peace of God be always with you.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

People ***God be in my head and in my thinking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my loving.
God be in my hands and in my giving. Amen.***

OFFERTORY **#11 – You Gotta Sing**

African Spiritual

*You are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary
or make an online offering by pressing the “contribute” button on our website, saintmarysepiscopal.org*

The Holy Communion

*Wherever you find yourself on the Journey of Faith, you are invited to receive communion.
To receive a blessing from the priest, cross your arms over your chest as you stand or kneel.
Please stand or choose another posture of reverence that is comfortable for your body.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer I, *Enriching Our Worship*

Priest God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to God.*

Priest Let us give thanks to God.

People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Priest It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, Source of life and fountain of kindness. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Christ and knit us into one body.

People *Through your Spirit, you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.*

Priest Therefore, joining with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing,

SANCTUS Hymnal #S-130 – *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Franz Peter Schubert
arr. Richard Proulx

Priest Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.

People *You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.*

Priest You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

People *But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves.*

Priest We would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

People *Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.*

Priest Through Abraham, Hagar, and Sarah you called us into covenant with you....
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All *Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

Priest Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of those who've gone before us, that with Mary and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Priest For those worshiping with us virtually today, let us now say together the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

All *Gracious God, you stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You wait for us and we only can let you in. We believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill us with your presence. Nourish us with your body and unite us in your blood, that we may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Priest And now, as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

Priest We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People *We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.*

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS #23 – Take O Take Me as I Am

Text/Tune: John L. Bell

#8 – Our Stories

Words/Music: Paul Friesen-Carper
Harmonization adapt: Jim May

Please stand or choose another posture of reverence that is comfortable for your body.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

adapted from *Enriching Our Worship*

All ***God of Abundance, You feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; You unite us with Christ and one another; And You make us one with all Your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of Your Spirit, that we may proclaim Your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. Amen.***

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG **#4 – All Are Welcome**

Text/Music Marty Haugen

DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the People.

People ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

SOCIAL TIME IN PERSON & ON ZOOM

Join us for good company and tasty treats on the front lawn!