

**Order of Service for Sunday June 20, 2021
4th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Lebanon, OR**



Welcome Rev. AJ+ Buckley

Greetings

Acclimation

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson A Reading from 1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

[The Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the

champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.]

David said to Saul, “Let no one’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.” David said, “The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Go, and may the Lord be with you!” Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul’s sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.” So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and he will give you into our hand.”

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people
- Thanks be to God

Psalm 9:9-20

9 The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, *
a refuge in time of trouble.

10 Those who know your Name will put their trust in you, *
for you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

11 Sing praise to the Lord who dwells in Zion; *
proclaim to the peoples the things he has done.

12 The Avenger of blood will remember them; *
he will not forget the cry of the afflicted.

- 13 Have pity on me, O Lord; *
 see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the
 gate of death;
- 14 So that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation *
 in the gates of the city of Zion.
- 15 The ungodly have fallen into the pit they dug, *
 and in the snare they set is their own foot caught.
- 16 The Lord is known by his acts of justice; *
 the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.
- 17 The wicked shall be given over to the grave, *
 and also all the peoples that forget God.
- 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten, *
 and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.
- 19 Rise up, O Lord, let not the ungodly have the upper hand; *
 let them be judged before you.
- 20 Put fear upon them, O Lord; *
 let the ungodly know they are but mortal.

Second Lesson A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.
 For he says,

“At an acceptable time, I have listened to you,
 and on a day of salvation, I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle
 in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we
 have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships,
 calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity,
 knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the
 power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in
 honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are
 true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and
 yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having
 nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no
 restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return-- I speak as to children-- open wide
 your hearts also.

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
- Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, According to Mark 4:35-41

Glory to you Lord Christ

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.”
 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other
 boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the

boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

- This is the gospel of the Lord,
- Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

"Do something"

Rev. AJ Buckley+

*"For the needy shall not always be forgotten, *
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever." Psalm 9:18*

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Mark 4:35-41

At a youth retreat, one of the leaders remarked that the shortest prayer we say is "Oh My God." It can be a cry of lament. It can be a cry of exasperation. It can be a trembling of fear. In those three words, we essentially saying to God, please DO SOMETHING. The situations described in today's readings are dire.

If David doesn't win against Goliath, his whole people will be enslaved. In the Psalm, the ungodly are winning, and causing misery to the psalmist. In the Epistle, Paul talks of enduring through beating, imprisonments, riots, labors, etc. In the Gospel, the ship is being swamped by water in a storm and sinking. These are life and death situations. Everything is on the line.

I have worked many different jobs in my life, but one I'll never forget was dog sitting. On one occasion, I was dog sitting four pugs! It was the fourth of July weekend and the family was having a big reunion. This was in Reno, NV, and it was HOT and dry. Two of the pugs were much older and getting on in years.

So, there I was, watching these lovely dogs, when I noticed that one of them was really breathing hard and loud. And, I figured out he must be overheating, so I took him to the basement and tried to cool him off, but it didn't work. Then I made the mistake of going online and looking up what to do (which really only ever creates more panic).

I started bargaining with God, and had my very own DO SOMETHING moment with God. The situation was dire. This was a life and death situation. I had to get this dog cooled down.

Thankfully, he was small enough to fit into the sink, and I ran cool water over him until he eventually cooled down. (and he was okay and lived several more years happily).

That's something we as humans now seem to have in common with our ancestors. Our hope rests in God, especially when the situation is dire.

It's no wonder the disciples cry out "Do you even care that we are perishing?" As Jesus peacefully somehow straight up sleeps through this tumultuous storm. It's understandable

to cry out “do you even care?” when things are looking bad. We believe in a God who is present and available to us, not far off in some cloud without a care for humanity. This is a God who wasn’t satisfied until not only did God become incarnate in Jesus, but present in each of us through the Holy Spirit. So how do we reconcile a God who loves like this and the tragedies in this world? There have been 247 mass shootings in HALF a year (through May 31st of 2021) in, what, like 150 some odd days?!?!

The truth is, sometimes God’s ways are hidden to us. It’s not that God is hiding from us. It’s that we struggle to believe like the disciples did. That is not to say if only you had more faith then x or y tragedy would not have happened. I don’t think our wellness is predicated on how hard we pray or what faith we have. Like last week, we see that even the faith of a mustard seed can grow to house the birds of the air, and all sorts of life in its branches. We saw that even though the seeds were scattered willy-nilly that things grew.

What I love most about the psalms is their willingness to be mad at God. It’s always something that’s helped me persevere through difficult times was to yell, cry, lament with God, at God, for God. God’s love is not predicated on behaving a certain way. There are no behavioral prerequisites to God’s love. It’s a given.

Your faith may be shallow and tenuous at times.

You may be hanging on by a thread.

In those times, keep talking with God,

Especially when it feels hollow and like it’s bouncing off the ceiling.

That is okay.

You are not alone.

Keep asking those questions of God like the disciples:

Do You not care?!

And when you’re scared and uncertain simply shout “DO SOMETHING.”

As Paul pleads in the passage today, “open wide your hearts.”

Open wide your hearts and let the anger rise up at the injustices of the world.

Open wide your hearts and let the sadness well up at the injustices of the world.

Open wide your hearts and let the joy bubble up at the goodness of the world.

Open wide your hearts and let despair and hopelessness rise up at the injustices of the world.

Open wide your hearts, and you will truly live. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another, respect the dignity of all people, and serve the common good.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

Father, Bless us as we strive to find our way to true racial reconciliation. Open our eyes to all that goes on around us that contributes to racial injustice. Grant us the knowledge to understand all that we do, both personally and as a society, which prevents us from recognizing and defending the dignity of all or our brothers and sisters, and especially at this time, our brothers and sisters of color who are now feeling so much pain. Grant us the grace to reflect on our own actions and inactions that contribute to this pain. And grant us the strength to take action to alleviate this pain and to end racial injustice in all its forms. In your name we pray.

- Lord, in your mercy
- *Hear our prayer.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

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. Forgive us, Lord. Release us from the deceptive corruption that is in our hearts and in the patterns that we continue to pass along from generation to generation. In your compassion transform us that we might desire the flourishing of all people in the fullness of your grace. In this worship and when we leave this place, we pray for more than conviction. We pray, O Lord, for change. Change the easy peace we make with ourselves into discontent because of the oppression of others. Change our tendency to defend ourselves into the freedom that comes from being forgiven and empowered through your love. Change our need for disguises, excuses, and images into the ability to be honest with ourselves and open with one another. Change our inclination to judge others into a desire to serve and uplift others. And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with you and our better selves so that our lives will be changed for the good of all. 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:

Take heart: God's Spirit empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life. Our sins are forgiven. Let us forgive one another and give ourselves to one another in

joyful community of justice and peace. May the 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.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Blessings

Dismissal: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia



[Prayers for Racial Justice and Reconciliation \(xavier.edu\)](http://xavier.edu)