**ARUSHA COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**AT-HOME WORSHIP SERVICE for 21st JUNE 2020**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

# Gathering Hymn – This Is the Day that The Lord Has Made - Good Morning Lord Prayer

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scTaJqyxB9w>

# Good morning Lord, it’s a brand new day,

# Please fill me with your spirit I pray,

# Help me in all I do and say,

# To live for You in every way! X 2

This is the day that my Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it,

This is the day that my Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it.

Good morning Lord, it’s a brand new day,

# Please fill me with your spirit I pray,

# Help me in all I do and say,

# To live for You in every way!

This is the day that my Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it,

This is the day that my Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it.

I want to live for you

I want to live for you

I want to live for you Lord Jesus

I want to live for you x 2

This is the day that my Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it,

This is the day that my Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it,

**Opening Prayer**

“Almighty God, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us in each moment, that your promises are true and your goodness never fails us.

Lord we come before you today to cleanse our hearts, our minds and our thoughts. To worship you with every fibre of our beings. To feel your presence and to be at peace with ourselves and this world. Help us, Lord, to learn more about you, and direct us to walk in the ways of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. For there is no greater opportunity on this earth than to follow in his footsteps. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

**Gathering Hymn 2 - Shine, Jesus, Shine (MP 445)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3iB30gCqAc**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3iB30gCqAc)

1  Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
    in the midst of the darkness, shining:
    Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
    set us free by the truth You now bring us –
    shine on me, shine on me.
        Shine, Jesus, shine,        fill this land with the Father’s glory;        blaze, Spirit, blaze,        set our hearts on fire.        Flow, river, flow,        flood the nations with grace and mercy;        send forth Your word, Lord,        and let there be light!

2  Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
    from the shadows into Your radiance;
    by Your blood I may enter Your brightness:
    search me, try me, consume all my darkness –
    shine on me, shine on me.
        Shine, Jesus, shine . . .

3  As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
    so our faces display Your likeness,
    ever changing from glory to glory:
    mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story –
    shine on me, shine on me.
        Shine, Jesus, shine . . .

**Old Testament Reading**

[**Jeremiah 20:7-13**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=147)

**Jeremiah’s Complaint**

7You deceivedme, Lord, and I was deceived;
    you overpowered me and prevailed.
I am ridiculed all day long;
    everyone mocks me.
8Whenever I speak, I cry out
    proclaiming violence and destruction.
So the word of the Lord has brought me
    insult and reproach all day long.
9But if I say, “I will not mention his word
    or speak anymore in his name,”
his word is in my heart like a fire,
    a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
    indeed, I cannot.
10I hear many whispering,
    “Terror on every side!
    Denounce him! Let’s denounce him!”
All my friends
    are waiting for me to slip, saying,
“Perhaps he will be deceived;
    then we will prevail over him
    and take our revenge on him.”

11But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;
    so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
    their dishonor will never be forgotten.
12Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous
    and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
    for to you I have committed my cause.

13Sing to the Lord!
    Give praise to the Lord!
He rescues the life of the needy
    from the hands of the wicked.

**The Psalm**

[**Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=147)

7For I endure scorn for your sake,
    and shame covers my face.
8I am a foreigner to my own family,
    a stranger to my own mother’s children;
9for zeal for your house consumes me,
    and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.
10When I weep and fast,
    I must endure scorn;
11when I put on sackcloth,
    people make sport of me.

(12Those who sit at the gate mock me,
    and I am the song of the drunkards.

13But I pray to you, Lord,
    in the time of your favor;
in your great love, O God,
    answer me with your sure salvation.
14Rescue me from the mire,
    do not let me sink;
deliver me from those who hate me,
    from the deep waters.
15Do not let the floodwaters engulf me
    or the depths swallow me up
    or the pit close its mouth over me.)

16Answer me, Lord, out of the goodness of your love;
    in your great mercy turn to me.
17Do not hide your face from your servant;
    answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.
18Come near and rescue me;
    deliver me because of my foes.

**The Apostle’s 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# Acclamation Hymn - You came from Heaven to earth (MP881)

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlL5or7I3q8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlL5or7I3q8)

Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing Your praises;
I’m so glad You’re in my life,
I’m so glad You came to save us.
    You came from Heaven to earth
    to show the way,
    from the earth to the cross
    my debt to pay;
    from the cross to the grave,
    from the grave to the sky,
    Lord, I lift Your name on high.

**The Epistle Reading**

[**Romans 6:1b-11**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=147)

### Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**The Confession of Sin**

Most merciful God, we confess that we cannot free ourselves from sin’s power. 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 neighbour as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may want to do your will. Help us to walk in your ways, that people may see our good works and glorify your name. Amen.

**The Assurance of Forgiveness**

In 1 John we read: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” God has had mercy on us. As a fellow sinner, I yet have the joy of announcing to all who repent and have faith in Christ that God hears your confession, and that through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**The Gospel Reading**

[**Matthew 10:24-39**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=147)

24“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

26“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. 30And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

34“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35For I have come to turn

“‘a man against his father,
    a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
36    a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

37“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

**The Sermon**

**“*Our Actions Proclaim our Faith*” – Mike Noel**

Do you believe in a chair? Well, most of us have never made a statement proclaiming our faith in a chair! Yet all of us proclaim our faith in the chair as we sit on it. We trust that it will support our weight as we rest our entire weight on the chair. We are proclaiming our faith in the chair by our actions not so much by a proclamation of faith in the chair.

 It is not so much what you say but what you do that will proclaim your faith to others. Isn’t this what Jesus is saying? If you trust in Me will you not live the way I lived? If you trust in Me will you not share with others what you value about Me? If you trust in Me will you not live in ways to show you value My ways even if it will get you killed?

Acknowledgement of Jesus is not so much having all our theology right but rather to tell people about who He is. To give witness to all the good that is in Jesus. To tell of all the amazing things He did on earth. To talk about His amazing creation. To speak of how He loves you and shows His amazing grace to you.

Jesus talks about what we value most. Is it family above Jesus? For faith to become real it will require sacrifice. Choosing something in a sense causes us to reject something else at least for that moment. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the value we put on what we choose. One of the ways our faith develops and grows is by the choices we make daily. The sacrifices we make to pursue our faith. All of life is based upon this idea of value and sacrifice. Even the simple choice of choosing chocolate ice cream over all the other flavors of ice cream for that moment we are putting more value on chocolate than any other flavor. When we choose a certain activity that activity has been given more value than any other activity for the moment. Regularly choosing certain activities continue to develop habits that affix greater value to that activity over another.

*What activities in your life proclaim your faith?*

*What are activities you choose that may undermine your faith?*

*Do you need to learn better ways to speak about your faith to others?*

*Are there sacrifices you could make to help develop a stronger faith?*

*What will you do this week to affix a greater value to your faith?*

**Response to the Sermon – Have Faith in God (MP 1214)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvX39KKI5HY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvX39KKI5HY)

1  O Lord, You lead me
by the still waters,
quietly restoring my soul.
You speak words of wisdom,
the promise of glory,
the power of the presence of God.
        Have faith in God,let your hope rest on the faithHe has placed in your heart.Never give up,never let go of the faithHe has placed in your heart.

2  O Lord, You guide me
through all the darkness,
turning my night into day;
You’ll never leave me,
never forsake me,
the power of the presence of God.
Have faith in God . . .

**Holy Communion**

Let us Pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in his Holy Supper.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat: this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name:

 Your kingdom come;

 Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

***Communion is taken***

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Passing of the Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(arms crossed across chest is suggested as a non-contact sign of peace).

**Offertory**

You may continue giving to ACC during these extraordinary times through the channels below:

ACC MPESA number +255 755 992 394 in the name of Nasieku Mollel

OR

ACC EXIM BANK account number: 0030023252

“Heavenly Father, You are the Creator and Source of all things good. You have showered us with greatness and love even on the days we have turned against You. Look into our hearts and receive this heartfelt thanksgiving we offer to you. Thank You for all the gifts and blessings You have bestowed upon us and our families. You are the rock of our spirit and without You, we are nothing.

You provide us with a multitude of blessings each day and we offer You these gifts as symbols of our utmost gratitude for Your kindness. Bless all of us, Father, with continued graces and blessings throughout each year. And may these gifts multiply so that everyone in our community and beyond may benefit from them and from the extension of your kingdom.

Forever in Your glory, Lord. In Jesus’ most holy name, we pray. Amen.”

**Sending Hymn – Shout to the North**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctc3GqWaV3U**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctc3GqWaV3U)

1  Men of faith, rise up and sing
of the great and glorious King;
you are strong when you feel weak,
in your brokenness complete.
        Shout to the north and the south,sing to the east and the west:Jesus is Saviour to all,Lord of heaven and earth.

2  Rise up women of the truth,
stand and sing to broken hearts,
who can know the healing power
of our glorious King of love.
Shout to the north . . .

We’ve been through fire,
we’ve been through rain;
we’ve been refined
by the power of His name.
We’ve fallen deeper in love with You,
You’ve burned the truth on our lips.
Shout to the north . . .

3  Rise up church with broken wings;
fill this place with songs again,
of our God who reigns on high:
by His grace again we’ll fly.
Shout to the north . . .
Lord of heaven and earth. (3 times)

**The Benediction**

Lord empower us to live a faithful life that others can see our good works and glorify you.

Amen