

**Arusha Community Church – Morning Worship Service 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost.  
14th June, 2020**

**Prelude verse.**

But as for me, I will enter Your house through the abundance of Your steadfast love and tender mercy. At Your holy temple I will bow [obediently] in reverence for You. O Lord, lead me in Your righteousness because of my enemies. Make Your way straight (direct, right) before me.

**Prayer;**

Holy Father and maker of heaven and earth you have made all things according to your word. God of flesh, you have made us the head of creation. We are here to worship you and praise your name. May our worship be accepted by you. Let us ride on the wings of our praises and refresh our spirits in you. As we begin today, guide us toward your will.

**Opening Hymn #1003. My Jesus My Savior. <https://youtu.be/mqSQvoindE4>**

My Jesus, my Savior  
Lord there is none like You.  
All of my days I want to praise  
The wonders of Your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
Tower of refuge and strength,  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down  
and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise  
I have in Y*

**(2 times)**

**Confession of sin.**

Most merciful God, we confess that we can't free ourselves from sins 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 neighbor 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.

**God is merciful, and has given his son Jesus Christ to die for us. For his sake God forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in Jesus Christ he gives power to become the children of God, and gives them his Holy Spirit**

## Psalm 100

### A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2     Worship the Lord with gladness;  
    come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.  
    It is he who made us, and we are his[a];  
    we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
    and his courts with praise;  
    give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
    his faithfulness continues through all generations.

### Hymn # 1057. Hide me now <https://youtu.be/9lvLVDCLiJs?list=RD9lvLVDCLiJs>

Hide me now

Under your wings

Cover me

Within your mighty hand

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar*

*I will soar with you above the storm*

*Father you are king over the flood*

*I will be still and know you are God*

Find rest my soul

In Christ alone

Know his power

In quietness and trust

*When the oceans rise, and thunders roar*

*I will soar with you, above the storm*

*Father you are king, over the flood*

*I will be still, and know you are God.*

*(2 times)*

Be Still and know

That I am God

I am the God

That healeth thee

***‘Isiah 43:1-3***

***when you pass through the waters, I  
will be with you***

***and when you pass through the  
river they will not weep over you.***

***and when you walk through the  
fire, you will not be burned***

***the flame will not set you ablaze***

***For I am the LORD your God the  
Holy One of Israel your savior.”***

*When the oceans rise, and thunders roar*

*I will soar with you, above the storm*

*Father you are king, over the flood*

*I will be still, and know you are God.*

### **Exodus 19:2-8a**

2 After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

3 Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. 8 The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

### **Romans 5:1-8**

#### **Peace and Hope.**

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Hymn # 1047 God will make away <https://youtu.be/1zo3fJYtS-o>**

God will make a way  
Where there seems to be no way  
He works in ways we cannot see  
He will make a way for me  
He will be my guide  
Hold me closely to His side  
With love and strength for each new day  
He will make a way,  
He will make a way.

God will make a way.....

By a roadway in the wilderness,  
He'll lead me,  
And rivers in the desert will I see  
Heaven and Earth will fade  
but His word will still remain  
And He will do something new today.

Oh, God will make a way  
Where there seems to be no way  
He works in ways we cannot see  
He will make a way for me  
He will be my guide  
Hold me closely to His side

With love and strength for each new day  
He will make a way,  
He will make a way

By a roadway in the wilderness,  
He'll lead me  
And rivers in the desert will I see  
Heaven and Earth will fade  
but His word will still remain  
And He will do something new today

Oh, God will make a way  
Where there seems to be no way  
He works in ways we cannot see  
He will make a way for me  
He will be my guide  
Hold me closely to His side  
With love and strength for each new day  
He will make a way,  
He will make a way

With love and strength for each new day  
He will make a way,  
He will make a way.

### **Mathew 9:35 - 38**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

### **Mathew 10:1 - 23**

**10** Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

<sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,<sup>[a]</sup> drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

<sup>9</sup> “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— <sup>10</sup> no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup> “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

<sup>21</sup> “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup> You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

## Sermons.

Matthew 9:35-10:23

I'm greeting you this morning from a suburb of Los Angeles where we are with my elderly parents during this unprecedented time. From here, I have a close-up view of the current tumultuous events in the United States, a season we pray will bring real and lasting change for good in our country, and in the world. Against that backdrop, and a global pandemic, I pondered this gospel passage.

In Matthew 9 we find that Jesus has been busy! In the first 34 verses he has healed a paralytic, raised a dead girl, and inadvertently healed a woman who bled for 12 years, restored sight to two blind men, delivered a man believed to be demon possessed (which subsequently restored his ability to speak) and called Matthew to follow him. He has gained a huge following, and the pharisees aren't too happy. They say he's driving out demons by the power of the prince of demons. I notice they don't have negative words about the various healings. He hasn't infuriated them by healing on the Sabbath so what can they say?

As we enter chapter 9 at verse 35, Jesus has been traveling throughout the region "*preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.*" Jesus previously announced the "good news of the Kingdom" when he stood in the synagogue (Luke 4:18) and read from the Hebrew Scriptures, "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free...*" He was reading from Isaiah 61 which goes on to say, "*...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.*"

The "good news of the Kingdom" is a full service good news. It is about freedom and justice for the oppressed, healing for the sick, comfort for those who mourn, and favor in the place of subjugation. It's no wonder the pharisees were looking to fault him. Though they themselves were also living in subjugation to Roman rule, oppressed and held down along with their people group, they were not about to give up the power they possessed within the pecking order of the system. His "power" and popularity threatened them.

Unlike the pharisees, Jesus is moved by the plight of the people. He looks over the crowds and feels compassion for them, helpless and shepherd-less as they are. From this place of compassion he instructs his disciples, "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ASK the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest field.*" He's saying, "*The need is so great! There are so few people responding to it.*" He instructs them to ASK (or "pray to") God to send more workers into the places of need. There is a harvest of faith, a harvest of justice, and a harvest of healing ready to be brought in. The following 23 verses of our reading show Jesus commissioning the disciples to go out and harvest, bringing the Kingdom of God wherever they go.

Jesus instructs them to preach the good news of **freedom, favor, comfort, provision, healing, joy, and praise instead of despair.** He's sending his disciples out to *do the work of the Kingdom.*

As I read this passage, my attention fell on the word "ask." "*Ask the Lord of the harvest...*". Asking, also known as petition, is one of the ways we pray. We also give thanks, offer praise, invite the Spirit to speak, listen quietly, allow ourselves to be changed by God's presence, etc. But Jesus's first response as he observed the needs of the oppressed masses was compassion, followed quickly by telling his followers to ASK God to move. "Send help!" "Send workers!" This feels particularly relevant to me as I consider the circumstances of our global season. We watch the news and literally see masses in the streets here and around the world, all on behalf of oppressed populations. But many of us are practicing some degree of staying mostly at home. For some, we have vulnerable people in our households that require us to be more careful about our activities beyond home. For others, our own health issues limit us. But we are still called to be involved, and this ASKING is our first response. All of us can spend more time petitioning God on behalf of the oppressed. **Prayer, in some mysterious way that I don't understand, changes things\***. And so we pray for change, for leaders to listen and respond wisely, for breakthrough to happen, for protestors to be safe, for the hardhearted to be softened, for humility, forgiveness, healing, and, as Isaiah says, for justice to "*roll down like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*"

So, our first response, then, is to ask God to move on behalf of the oppressed. Pray this continuously. Don't let up. God hears. And secondly, as followers of Jesus, we are commissioned anew to go **do** the work of the Kingdom. We are called to "***do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.***" We are instructed to care for the "least of these," to speak up for the oppressed, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. And there isn't only ONE way to do this. Each of us must respond in our unique circumstances with our unique gifts and personalities, and in the way we sense God leading us to respond. The key is that we DO respond. God will direct each of us as we open ourselves to being led. Therefore, may we be sensitive to divine leading, and may we follow this compassionate Jesus with great courage.

\*Allow me to recommend the extremely readable and helpful book "How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People", by my friend, Pete Greig.

# #HOWTOPRAY

for justice

ASK – Start by asking God how you can pray for the issue you're concerned about, The Lord's Prayer has a simple, effective framework to inform your prayers

2. BELIEVE  
BELIEVE – We have hope. God can – and does – change the world. Even the greatest injustice can be overcome by the power of prayer.

God can make a difference, and often chooses to act through our prayer and action

3. PERSIST  
PERSIST – We need to keep persisting in prayer even when nothing seems to be changing. There are many examples in the Bible and throughout Church history of major breakthroughs that required faithfulness through years of prayer



[24-7prayer.com/prayfortheworld](http://24-7prayer.com/prayfortheworld)



### **Apostle 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 and 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.

### **Offertory Hymn #**

**Hymn # 980 Draw me Close to You** [https://youtu.be/7d\\_oYr-P16M](https://youtu.be/7d_oYr-P16M)

Draw me close to you  
Never let me go  
I lay it all down again  
To hear you say that I'm your friend  
You are my desire  
No one else will do  
Cause nothing else can take your place  
To feel the warmth of your embrace  
Help me find the way  
Bring me back to you  
  
Draw me close to you  
Never let me go

I lay it all down again  
To hear you say that I'm your friend  
You are my desire  
No one else will do  
Cause nothing else can take your place  
To feel the warmth of your embrace  
Help me find the way  
Bring me back to you  
  
You're all I want  
You're all I've ever needed  
You're all I want  
Help me know you are near

### **Offertory prayer.**

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

### **Congregational prayer.**

- In our moments of doubt and unbelief, when worldly pressure or circumstance become the distance between us, draw near, we pray.
- Remind us of the grace that we first knew, your healing touch, the Father's love, the Spirit's breath. Grant us courage, a faith that endures and the sure knowledge that you are with us in our journeying, now and always.
- As we take our worship, praise and prayer from this place and into our daily lives, may our lives be sustained through the love of our Heavenly Father. May we feel the presence of our Savior walking beside us, and know the power of the Spirit in both our actions and our words.

### **Lord's Prayer.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as 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 the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

### **Benediction.**

*May we be filled with compassion for those in need, committed in prayer to petition Heaven on their behalf, and commissioned and empowered anew to be those who bring the Good News of the Kingdom wherever we go.*

### **Closing Hymn # 445 Shine Jesus shine <https://youtu.be/J3iB30gCqAc>**

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*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance

By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my  
darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine Jesus shine.....*

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.....x2.*

**GO IN PEACE AND SAVE THE LORD**