

ACC Order of Service August 9th Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Moira Brehony

Introduction; Welcome to our ACC service today.

Maybe you might like to light a candle in preparation for our service today.

We continue to worship outside the confines of our church in Arusha and as of now we don't know for how long more. Covid 19 has invaded our lives and we are now experiencing the massive loss of jobs for people especially in the tourism and hospitality sectors. We pray for those who are suffering economically and we also pray for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. We are united in prayer.

Our entrance antiphon is from Psalm 73:

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
And forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
And forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Gathering Hymn; This is the day

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=this+is+the+day+that+the+lord+has+made&docid=607998448058827719&mid=6862A63D751CA6382F3F6862A63D751CA6382F3F&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

**This is the day,
This is the day that the Lord has made,
That the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day
This is the day that the Lord has made.**

**This is the day,
This is the day when He rose again,
When He rose again.
We will rejoice
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day when He rose again
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day
This is the day when He rose again.**

**This is the day,
This is the day when the Spirit came,
When the Spirit came
We will rejoice
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day; this is the day when the Spirit came**

Let us bow our heads to pray;

Dear Lord and Father,

Thank you that you promise us that where two or three are gathered in Your name YOU are there in our midst. Lord we welcome You amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that You have lavished upon each one of us. Thank you for taking care of us and being with us during this difficult time. We know this time will pass and with Your love we will survive.

Confession of sins;

Almighty God, we confess that we cannot free ourselves from sin's power. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep, and have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may want to do your will and glorify Your name. Amen.

Absolution: God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes in Him will have everlasting life. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us. Confess, and believe that your sins are forgiven.

Hymn No 727 We are gathering together unto Him

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=We+are+gathered+together+unto+Him&docid=608047041332185448&mid=68472A8F82D4E2BB611F68472A8F82D4E2BB611F&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

**We are gathering together unto Him,
We are gathering unto Him;
Unto Him shall the gathering
of the people be;
We are gathering together unto Him.**

**We are singing together unto Him,
We are singing together unto Him;
Unto Him shall the singing
of the people be;
We are singing together unto Him.**

**We are offering together unto Him,
We are offering together unto Him;
unto Him shall the offering
of the people be;
We are offering together unto Him.**

**We are praying together unto Him,
We are praying together unto Him;
Unto Him shall the praying
of the people be;
We are praying together unto Him.**

First Reading; Genesis 37 Vs 3-4, 12-28 Page 31 in church bible

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flock near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, 'As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come I am going to send you to them' 'Very well' he replied.

So, he said to him ‘Go and see all is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me’ Then he sent him off from the valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, ‘what are you looking for’?

He replied ‘I’m looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks’?

‘They have moved on from here’ the man answered ‘I heard them say ‘let’s go to Dothan’

So, Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

‘Here comes the dreamer’ they said to each other. ‘Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams’

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. ‘Let’s not take his life’ he said.

‘Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.’ Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

So, when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe – the ornate robe he was wearing – and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm, myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brother, ‘what will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood’? Come let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.’ His brothers agreed.

So, when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Psalm 85: 8 – 13

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

A voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him

And his glory will dwell in our land

Response;

Let us see O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;

Justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth

And justice look down from heaven

Response;

Let us see O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help

3. The Lord will make us prosper

And our earth shall yield its fruit

Justice shall march before him

And peace shall follow his steps

Response;

Let us see O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help

Second reading Romans 10: Vs 5 – 15 Page 853

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: The person who does these things will live by them. But the righteousness that is by faith says: ‘Do not say in your heart,

“Who will ascend into heaven?” or “Who will descend into the deep?” But what does it say? The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: if you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe with your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As scripture say, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written; How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

Hymn of Recollection no 1075

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=jesus+all+for+jesus+youtube&view=detail&mid=6171D5CC195995CBE7CC6171D5CC195995CBE7CC&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3djesus%2ball%2bfor%2bjesus%2byoutube%26cvid%3d61d9e66ce18c44639ffbe4facb034374%26FORM%3dANAB01%26C%3dACTS>

Jesus all for Jesus

All I am and have and ever hope to be
Jesus, all for Jesus all I am and have and ever hope to be

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans I surrender these into Your hands
All of my ambitions, hopes and plans I surrender these into Your hands

For its only in Your will that I am free
For its only in Your will that I am free

Jesus all for Jesus all I have and am and ever hope to be.

The Gospel reading Mathew 14:22-23

Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night! He went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ‘Is it a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, ‘Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid’ It was Peter who answered.

‘Lord’ he said, if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water. ‘Come’ said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. ‘Lord Save me’ he cried. Jesus put his hand and at once and helped him. ‘Man of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’ And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God’

The Gospel of the Lord.

The sermon is given by John Yoder

<https://acc.or.tz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ACC-Sermon-August-9.m4a>

Genesis is a book of hope and promise. Genesis begins with God's creation of a wonderful world in which man and woman are given a beautiful garden for a home, a home in which God himself is present. Genesis contains the story of Abraham and Sarah in which God promises they will be the parents of a great nation and their descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky.

However, you all know that stories in Genesis don't always have a happy ending. Because of disobedience Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden and their son Cain kills his brother Abel. By the time of Noah, only one faithful person is left on the earth. Although Abram receives a great promise, it never really happens in his life. Instead of ruling a great nation, he can't even buy a plot of land to bury his wife; although promised countless children, he has only two sons—one whom he must chase away, the other he is commanded to kill. Abraham's grandson Jacob is a rascal who tricks his father, his brother, and his uncle. In the story we read today, Jacob's son, Joseph isn't much better. As they say, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree." Like his father, Joseph is a spoiled braggard who tells his parents and his brothers they will bow down to him. No wonder his brothers hate him and try to kill him. Although eventually Joseph comes out well, today's reading ends with Joseph narrowly escaping death only because he is sold into a life of slavery in faraway Egypt. The future for Joseph looks bleak.

The other story for today is Jesus walking on water. Jesus is not the only character in the story. And for the other character, Peter, this is a terrifying experience. Perhaps a bit like Joseph in his arrogance and self-confidence, Peter gives walking on water a try. After a few steps, he panics, and begins to sink. Although Jesus saves Peter, at the time when he was sinking, Peter knew he was drowning.

Perhaps now, more than ever before, we can relate to these two stories. Like Joseph we are discouraged because we face a very uncertain future. Like Peter, we are terrified. We are threatened by a crisis caused by a virus none of us can see. It is a crisis that has taken away our jobs, our ability to move about freely, our health, and even the lives of family and friends. Most of all, it is a crisis with no end in sight.

Today's reading in Psalms offers hope and promises restoration. Psalm 85 tells us that God will "speak peace to his people," that "God's salvation is at hand," and that "God will give what is good." The hope and promise is that God is with us and that all will be well. How will this happen? Not by some quick and easy solution such as praying for a miracle and expecting God to do something without our involvement

When Jesus left the earth, he promised that God would continue to be present in the Holy Spirit. The Church is the practical and visible expression of God's presence, the Church is the manifestation of God's Holy Spirit. We the church, we the people of ACC, we are God's hands and feet in Arusha or wherever we are now scattered. We are the ones through whom God speaks peace, brings salvation, and gives what is good. When the future looks bleak, as it did for Joseph being carried off into slavery or Peter sinking into the deep waters, the Holy Spirit through the church reaches out. For some of you, this is through putting yourself at risk by caring for the sick. For some it may be giving financial help to a friend, a relative, or even a stranger. For some it may be bringing food to a person in need. For some, it may be assisting with school fees that enable a child to remain in class. For some, it may be going to the classroom and teaching that child. For some it may be a letter or telephone call letting another know you are thinking of them and praying for them. For some it may be spending time just

listening as a frightened person expresses their fears. For all of us, it means doing everything we can do to avoid spreading the virus. These are some of the ways that we can show the presence of the Holy Spirit, speak peace, bring salvation, and give what is good. May God bless you and keep you. Amen.

The Apostles' 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.

Hymn; Bless the Lord, O my soul;

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=blest+the+lord+oh+my+soul&docid=607994131645531959&mid=232E75546FBF228DF193232E75546FBF228DF193&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name*

1. The sun comes up,
It's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever my pass
 And whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing
 When the evening comes.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name*

2. You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger,
 Your name is great
And Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness,

I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name*

3. And on that day
When my strength is failing,
 The end draws near
And my time has come,
 Still my soul will sing
Your praise unending;
 Ten thousand years
And then for ever more.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name*

Communal Prayers: The service leader leads the family in praying; think of all the people who are suffering in Tanzania now as a result of Corona, those who are sick, those who are mourning and those who have lost their jobs.

Pray for your own family and in particular those who are in need of any kind of help at this time.

We pray for the people of Beirut following this devastating explosion, we ask you Lord to lay your healing hands on those who have been injured and separated from family. We remember those who have lost their lives too and in particular we remember very specially the children who are suffering.

We pray for our ACC members who are travelling at this time, keep them safe Lord and bring them home safely.

We thank you Lord for the many people who are helping us to provide a service for our members every week, this means so much to so many people. Thank you, John Yoder, for agreeing to preach for us this week.

The service leader starts and finishes the prayers. The people who pray out loud should end their prayer with “**Lord in your Mercy**” and everyone else will respond “**Hear our prayers**”

Let us finish our prayer by saying together;

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.

Offertory Hymn No 170 Give thanks with a grateful heart.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=give+thanks+with+a+grateful+heart&docid=608005354332620993&mid=625DC32FBCADED4CF472625DC32FBCADED4CF472&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ, His son.

And now let the weak say, ‘I am strong’
Let the poor say ‘I am rich’
Because of what the Lord has done for us;
And now let the wear say, ‘I am strong’
Let the poor say ‘I am rich’

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ, His son.

Because of what the Lord has done for us;

Give thanks.....

**Offerings can be made to ACC by using mpesa as follows;
ACC MPESA number +255 755 992 394 in the name of Nasieku Mollel
(ACC Administrator’s last name).**

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Heavenly father, thank you for this service today and for the nourishing words we have read and listened to as food for our souls.

We ask you Lord to continue to be with us this day and this week and in a special way be with us this day.

We are closing this service now but we ask You Lord to be with us and with our families in all that we do. In Jesus name we pray Amen

Closing Hymn, No 506 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=O+My+Lord+My+God+How+Great&&view=detail&mid=0FDE3EDE294EB5DADF290FDE3EDE294EB5DADF29&&FORM=VRDGAR>

1. O Lord my God!
 when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works
 Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars,
 I hear the rolling thunder,
The power throughout the universe
 displayed;

*Then sings my soul, My saviour God, to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My saviour God to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

2. When through the woods
 And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly
 In the trees;
When I looked down
From lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook,
And feel the gentle breeze;

*Then sings my soul, My saviour God, to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My saviour God to thee,*

How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

3. And when I think
 That God His son not sparing,
Sent Him to die-
 I scarce can take it in
That on the cross
 My burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin;

*Then sings my soul, My saviour God, to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My saviour God to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

4. When Christ shall come
 With shout of acclamation
And take me home
 What joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim
My God, how great thou art

*Then sings my soul, My saviour God, to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My saviour God to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*