ARUSHA COMMUNITY CHURCH (ACC)

**Sunday 30th August 2020 (13th Sunday after Pentecost)**

**Opening Prayer:**

 Faithful Father, we begin today by giving you thanks. Your love endures forever, it never fails. Though there are many ways in which we have failed, we have not exceeded the supply of your mercy and grace. We thank you for revealing yourself to us through your word. As we open the Bible today we pray that we would hear your voice. We ask that your Holy Spirit would be at work, opening our ears to hear and our hearts to receive your word. May we be transformed into your likeness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**Gathering Hymn – Everlasting God (Yesterday, today and for ever) MP1041**

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0klIUfKbYgE>

 **Everlasting God
 The years go by but You're unchanging
 In this fragile world
 You are the only firm foundation
 Always loving always true
 Always merciful and good, so good**

 **Yesterday, today and forever
 You are the same, You never change
 And yesterday, today and forever
 You are faithful and we will trust in You**

 **Uncreated One
 You have no end and no beginning
 Earthly powers fade
 But there is no end to Your kingdom
 Always loving, always true
 Always merciful and good, so good**

 **Yesterday, today and forever
 You are the same, You never change
 Yesterday, today and forever
 You are faithful and we will trust in You**

 **Yesterday, today and forever
 You are the same, You never change
 And yesterday, today and forever
 You are faithful and we will trust in You, trust in You**

 **Yahweh God unchanging
 Yahweh firm foundation
 Yahweh God unchanging
 Yahweh firm foundation**

 **Yesterday, today and forever
 You are the same, You never change
 Yesterday, today and forever
 You are faithful and we will trust in You**

 **Yesterday, today and forever
 You are the same, You never change
 Yesterday, today and forever
 You are faithful and we will trust in You**

 **We will trust in You, we will trust in You
 You're our faithful God, faithful God**

**Confession of sin**

 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 of Praise - Great is the Lord (MP199)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdcR87NoxwY>

 **Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,
 the city of our God, the holy place,
 the joy of the whole earth.
 Great is the Lord in whom we have the victory,
 He aids us against the enemy,
 we bow down on our knees.**

 **And Lord, we want to lift Your name on high,
 and Lord, we want to thank You,
 for the works You’ve done in our lives;
 and Lord, we trust in Your unfailing love,
 for You alone are God eternal,
 throughout earth and heaven above.**

**Psalm 67**

 **1**May God be gracious to us and bless us
     and make his face shine on us—
 **2**so that your ways may be known on earth,
     your salvation among all nations.

 **3**May the peoples praise you, God;
     may all the peoples praise you.
 **4**May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
     for you rule the peoples with equity
     and guide the nations of the earth.
 **5**May the peoples praise you, God;
     may all the peoples praise you.

 **6**The land yields its harvest;
     God, our God, blesses us.
 **7**May God bless us still,
     so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

**First Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

###  Salvation for Others

 **56**This is what the Lord says:

 “Maintain justice
     and do what is right,
 for my salvation is close at hand
     and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

 **6**And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord
     to minister to him,
 to love the name of the Lord,
     and to be his servants,
 all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
     and who hold fast to my covenant—
 **7**these I will bring to my holy mountain
     and give them joy in my house of prayer.
 Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
     will be accepted on my altar;
 for my house will be called
     a house of prayer for all nations.”
 **8**The Sovereign Lord declares—
     he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
 “I will gather still others to them
     besides those already gathered.”

**Second Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

###  The Remnant of Israel

 **11**I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **2**God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

 **29**for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. **30**Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, **31**so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28241h)] receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. **32**For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

**Open the Eyes of my heart (MP1100)**

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idQ1n3cdgfo>

 **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
 open the eyes of my heart.
 I want to see You,
 I want to see You.
 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
 open the eyes of my heart.
 I want to see You,
 I want to see You.
     To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your power and love, as we sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy.’**

 **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord . . .**

 **To see You high and lifted up . . .**

 **Holy, holy, holy,
 holy, holy, holy,
 holy, holy, holy,
 I want to see You.
 Holy, holy, holy . . .**

**Gospel Reading 19:1-10**

**Sermon Reading 2 Chronicles 30:1-27**

### Hezekiah Celebrates the Passover

 **30**Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel. **2**The king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month. **3**They had not been able to celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. **4**The plan seemed right both to the king and to the whole assembly. **5**They decided to send a proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, calling the people to come to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel. It had not been celebrated in large numbers according to what was written.

 **6**At the king’s command, couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and from his officials, which read:

 “People of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. **7**Do not be like your parents and your fellow Israelites, who were unfaithful to the Lord, the God of their ancestors, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see. **8**Do not be stiff-necked, as your ancestors were; submit to the Lord. Come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever. Serve the Lord your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you. **9**If you return to the Lord, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him.”

 **10**The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but people scorned and ridiculed them. **11**Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. **12**Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord.

 **13**A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month. **14**They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley.

 **15**They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the temple of the Lord. **16**Then they took up their regular positions as prescribed in the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests splashed against the altar the blood handed to them by the Levites. **17**Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean and could not consecrate their lambs[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%2030&version=NIV#fen-NIV-11845a)] to the Lord. **18**Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone **19**who sets their heart on seeking God—the Lord, the God of their ancestors—even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.” **20**And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

 **21**The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests praised the Lord every day with resounding instruments dedicated to the Lord.

 **22**Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites, who showed good understanding of the service of the Lord. For the seven days they ate their assigned portion and offered fellowship offerings and praised[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%2030&version=NIV#fen-NIV-11850c)] the Lord, the God of their ancestors.

 **23**The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so for another seven days they celebrated joyfully. **24**Hezekiah king of Judah provided a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep and goats for the assembly, and the officials provided them with a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep and goats. A great number of priests consecrated themselves. **25**The entire assembly of Judah rejoiced, along with the priests and Levites and all who had assembled from Israel, including the foreigners who had come from Israel and also those who resided in Judah. **26**There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. **27**The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place.

**Sermon: Paul Mosley**

**Offertory Hymn – God of Wonders (MP1089)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M8XK2w7wmw>

 **1  Lord of all creation,
 of water, earth and sky,
 the heavens are Your tabernacle;
 glory to the Lord on high.
         God of wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy; the universe declares Your majesty. You are holy, holy; Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.**

 **2  Early in the morning
 I will celebrate the light,
 and as I stumble in the darkness
 I will call Your name by night.
 God of wonders . . .
 Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth! (3 times)**

**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). OR deposited directly into our ACC EXIM account number: 0030023252.**

**Communal Prayers**

The service leader leads the family in praying;

 **Dear Lord, for all these prayers, spoken and unspoken, we pray trusting and believing in Jesus name. Amen**

**Closing Hymn – Shout to the north (MP1094)**

 **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)**

***GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD***