

*St. Alban's Episcopal Church*  
*7th Sunday In Pentecost*



*July 19, 2020*

**Our Mission:** *We are called by the Spirit to be transformed by God in heart and mind, to serve our community, UCLA, and the world as the Body of Christ. We will grow in faith, hope and love through the practices of worship, formation, compassion and hospitality.*

**Prelude Fantasia in D minor**

**Johann Pachelbel**

**Opening Hymn** *How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds*

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

**The Gloria**

All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from hea - ven, and  
God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be to all peo - ple giv - en. We  
bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for your great glo - ry  
thanks and praise, O God Al - might - y Fa - ther.

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you

*People:* **And also with you**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Reading**

**Genesis 28:10-19a**

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the

Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

**The Second Reading      Romans 8:12-25**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**The Gospel**



*Gospel Reader:*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew 13:24-30,36-43.  
*People:*                **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*Gospel Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.



**The Sermon**

**Ms. Christie Mossman**

**Musical Meditation We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder**

**Spiritual**

We are climbing Jacob's ladder  
 We are climbing Jacob's ladder  
 We are climbing Jacob's ladder  
 Followers of the Cross.

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
 Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
 Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
 Followers of the Cross.

Every rung goes higher and higher  
 Every rung goes higher and higher  
 Every rung goes higher and higher  
 Followers of the Cross.

If you love him, why not serve him?  
 If you love him, why not serve him?  
 If you love him, why not serve him?  
 Followers of the Cross.

**The Nicene Creed**

*Reader:* Let us join in affirming our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

*People:* 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.

### The Prayers of the People

Adapted from *Intercessions for Christian People*

*Reader:* In the power of God's new life, revealed in the Risen Lord, we pray to the Lord.  
O God, you have blessed with faith those who see your presence in the wounded hands and feet of Jesus. You have also blessed with faith those who have not seen, yet believe your Gospel. We give you thanks for the faith you have given us, and we pray that we may share with---and be---the good news for people everywhere. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Turn the eyes of the leaders of the nations to envision a new world in which swords are turned into plowshares, and where justice reigns.

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* As the earliest Christians held all things in common, and shared their abundance with the needy, give us the spirit of generosity in all things. Help us to overcome hunger and homelessness among the human family. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* For prisoners and hostages, for those seeking justice, for those in mental anguish, for the sick and suffering, especially for all victims of the coronavirus pandemic, for their families, and for all front line care givers. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* For the leaders of the Church; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for John and Diane, our Bishops; for Yein, our Rector; for the vestry, staff, and leaders of our congregation. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* For all who have died and for all who grieve, that in Christ who has triumphed over death, they may find light perpetual and eternal love. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* God of all power and love,  
we give thanks for your unfailing presence  
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.  
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.  
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:  
a people who pray, worship, learn,  
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.  
Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**

### **The Anthem Lord, You Have Searched Me Out**

**John M.**

#### **Hendrickson**

Lord, you have searched me out and known me,  
you know when I sit and when I rise;  
you understand my thoughts from afar.  
You are acquainted with all my ways.  
Where could I go from your spirit?  
Where could I flee from you?  
I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there.  
You have searched me and known me, Lord.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"  
even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.  
O Lord, I will praise you for I am wonderfully made.  
You created my inner most being,  
wove me together in my mother's womb.

Lord, you have searched me out and known me,  
you know when I sit and when I rise;  
Lord, you have searched me out and known me,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*People:* **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.**

## **The Blessing**

**The Closing Hymn** *Gracious Spirit, give your servants*

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**