

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 15, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Drumheller "Passion Play" – Wayne details re: July 17, leave by bus at 2 pm

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel reading contains iconic words from Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

The early hearers of this biblical passage would have known a yoke to be a means of engaging the energy of oxen as heavy lifters in the enterprise of farming. The first hearers of Matthew also viewed a yoke as a symbol of obedience to God's law and wisdom.

Generally, our instinct may be to resist yokes and laws, or at least not immediately connect them with the idea of freedom. Through the image of the yoke, however, Jesus invites us to think of God's law and wisdom as a means to surrender, give way, and accept something graceful and positive—rest, ease, lightness. Jesus reframes the idea of a yoke by telling us that a yoke will help us grow as disciples. The gospel links humility to freedom.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds for worship.

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✠ one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: "God is Here Today" ACS 993 (sing twice)

Dios es - tá a - quí, tan
God is here to - day; as

cier-to co-mo el ai - re que res - pi - ro, tan
cer - tain as the air I breathe, as

cier-to co-mo la ma - ña - na se le - van - ta, tan
cer - tain as the morn - ing sun that ris - es, as

cier-to co-mo que le can - to y me pue - de o - ír.
cer - tain when I sing you'll hear my song.

Psalm 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.

All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,
that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;

your dominion endures throughout all ages.
**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in all your works.**

The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Glory" JTH

$\text{♩} = 120$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Glo-ry to God_, Glo-ry to God_, Glo-ry to God_ on

8
high! Glo-ry to God_ and hope for all peo - ple on earth_ Glo-ry to God_ ,

14
Glo-ry to God_ , Glo-ry to God_ on high! Glo-ry to God_ and peace to all peo - ple on

19
earth. Your grace sanc - ti - fies us, Your love calls_ us

24
in, Your word and Your Spi - rit_ trans - form_ Glo-ry to God_ ,

30
Glo-ry to God_ , Glo-ry to God_ on high! Glo-ry to God_ and hope for all peo - ple on

35
earth.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 24:34, 42-49, 58-67

The lectionary now moves to the story of how Isaac, who lived in Canaan, came to marry Rebekah, his cousin from Abraham's ancestral homeland. The story stresses the Lord's blessings on the venture as a sign of God's promised care for this ancestral family.

A reading from Genesis.

[Laban received a visitor who said,] "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – JTH

♩ = 120
3



You are the way_ You are the truth. You are the light_ of my life_



You are the word, speak to my heart_ and my soul. 1. 2. soul.

Today's gospel reading and sermon have been prepared and shared by Rev. Matthew Senf, Assistant to the Bishop, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, British Columbia Synod.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.

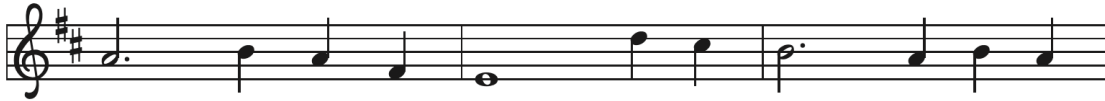
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" ACS 1017



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

A NEW CREED

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you,

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest. Transforming God, **breathe in us we pray.**

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. Transforming God, **breathe in us we pray.**

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. Transforming God, **breathe in us we pray.**

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need especially Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Austin, Tiffany, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Shirley J., Isobel, Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Doreen, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Cherylee, and those we name silently now . . . [*silence*]. Transforming God, **breathe in us we pray.**

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. Thank you for those who pray for others, that their time with you will encourage their hearts. Hold in your care Harvey & Sandy Severtson and Rob & Heather Skakum. We continue to lift up Pastor Joel, Vanesa and Hans during this time of waiting. Transforming God, **breathe in us we pray.**

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest (*especially*), we thank you for the gifts of life together. Transforming God, **breathe in us we pray.**

In your mercy, O God, we lift up the longings of our hearts and the needs of our world. Renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

SENDING SONG "Lord of All Hopefulness" ELW 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

SENDING

Go in peace, for Christ is with you.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

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