

St George's Church
27 September 2020
Harvest Festival, Africa Sunday

Hymn: Come, ye thankful people, come (sung outside)

The Lord be with you
And with also with you.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.

Prayers of Penitence / Absolution

O God of justice and plenty,
whose generous earth was created
for its own particular beauty,
for the nourishment of its inhabitants,
and to sing your glory:
we confess that through our sinfulness
we have harvested injustice and pollution
and not your abundance;
the land has become strange to us,
and our songs of celebration have turned harsh.
We turn to you, O God.
We renounce evil.
We seek your forgiveness.
We choose to be made whole,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Lord of Creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 17. 1 - 7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will pour forth mysteries from of old,

Such as we have heard and known,

which our forebears have told us.

We will not hide from their children,

but will recount to generations to come,

the praises of the Lord and his power

and the wonderful works he has done.

For he did marvellous things in the sight of their forebears,

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He divided the sea and let them pass through;

he made the waters stand still in a heap.

He led them with a cloud by day
and all the night through with a blaze of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the rock
and made water gush out like rivers

Epistle: Philippians 2. 1 - 13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: Praise, O praise our God and King

Gospel: Matthew 21. 23 - 32

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From

heaven,” he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?”²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin,” we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.”²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.’³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Solo: Laudate Dominum (Mozart)

Creed of God and Creation

All: I believe in God, the creator of the universe.

I believe in the Son, Jesus Christ who came that all may have abundant life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gifts and empowers and makes the presence of the Trinity known on earth and among all living people and things.

All: I believe that all living things and all creatures

on earth, under the earth, in the air, and in the sea are made by God.

I believe God saw that they were good and God delights in them, their variety, their usefulness and their roles in the maintenance of this planet.

All: I believe in the dominion of human beings and the responsibility given to all by God so that all creatures may fulfil God’s intended purpose within the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Solo: We plough the fields, and scatter

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God and all respond:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord’s Prayer

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,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread

to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world,

grant us peace.

Please come forward to receive the sacrament at the chancel step, keeping 1.5 m distance from others. At this time we are not sharing the cup.

During Communion: Ich esse mit freuden mein weniges Brot

(JS Bach)

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise (sung outside)

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Sunday Services:

10.30 Eucharist St George’s

18.00 Evening Prayer, Mitte (Marienkirche, SIU Alexanderplatz)

- Please sit in the **marked places, 1.5 m. apart.**
- There will be a **retiring collection at the door.**
- **Our Sunday morning services** are broadcast on our Youtube channel.
- **Next Sunday**, after the morning service, is our Annual Church Meeting. Please see church notice boards for details of elections of Church Officers etc.
- **Mondays 18-19h Holy Hour:** an hour of holy music, silence, meditation and prayer in St George’s. Prayer requests can be sent to :office@stgeorges.de
- **Financial support:** as St George’s Anglican Church we take responsibility together for all our building costs, clergy and staff salaries, and all running expenses. We want our mission to be properly funded. Because we don’t receive any funding from the Church of England or the German state, we would love to invite you to give regularly, if possible by monthly bank transfer. See <https://st-georges.jimdosite.com/giving/>

Soloist Marie Schuppan Organist Scott Clemons