

Zoom Church

Why We Do It & What Works Well About It

The Rev. Miranda Hassett, St. Dunstan's, Madison

Why Zoom?

- Why we started with Zoom**
- Why we continue with Zoom...**

Welcome & Silence

Gathering Hymn: "Not here for high and holy things"

Hymn #9

**1. Not here for high and holy things
we render thanks to thee,
but for the common things of earth,
the purple pageantry
of dawning and of dying days,
the splendor of the sea.**

**4. Awake, awake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky,
the fields are wet with diamond dew,
the worlds awake to cry
their blessings on the Lord of life,
as he goes meekly by.**

**5. Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,
shout with their shout of praise;
see how the giant sun soars up,
great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come
and set thy soul ablaze,**

**6. to give and give, and give again,
what God hath given thee;
to spend thyself nor count the cost;
to serve right gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are,
and all that are to be.**

Opening Verse, Confession & Absolution

Officiant Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that God may come and rain righteousness upon us. Amen. *(Hosea 10:12)*

Let us examine our lives in the presence of God, humbly confessing our sins and opening our hearts. I invite you to bow your head, or take some other posture of humility before God.

A brief silence for reflection follows.

Officiant God the Creator and Source, Lord of creation,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Officiant God the Incarnate Word, through whom all things were made,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Officiant God the Holy Spirit, who renews the face of the earth,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Officiant Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, creating and saving God,

People **have mercy upon us.**

The Priest pronounces absolution.

Song of Praise – November

Hymnal #397, verses 1 & 2

- 1. Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

- 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

The Collects of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray. Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving God, you open your hand and scatter blessings upon all your children. Give us grateful hearts in times of plenty, and faithful hearts in times of want. Stir us with your Spirit, in this and every season of our lives, to use whatever you place in our hands to add to the world's measure of hope, wholeness, and delight. We pray all this in the name of Christ, the Giver and the Gift. **Amen.**

First Reading: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Please note that Paul is using the imagery of darkness and light in a fairly simple and literal way here: night is when thieves break in, and when people might be less alert due to sleep or drunkenness. Day is the time of wakefulness and readiness. Many Christians today are working on reckoning with the ways that texts that equate dark with evil and light with good, or can be read as doing so, have become intertwined with racist ideologies over the centuries. It's important to notice when these words are used and be mindful about their history and impact.

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the church in Thessalonica.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 123

To you I lift up my eyes, *

to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *

and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Holy One our God, *

until God shows us mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O God, have mercy, *

for we have had more than enough of contempt,

Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *

and of the derision of the proud.

Matthew 25:29 *(Common English Bible)*

“Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them.”

Matthew 25:14-30

[24:3 - When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'] Jesus said, ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

Luke 19:11-27

As they were listening to this, he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. So he said, ‘A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, “Do business with these until I come back.” But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, “We do not want this man to rule over us.”

Matthew

But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

[Repeat for slave with two talents]

Luke

When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. The first came forward and said, "Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds." He said to him, "Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities." Then the second came, saying, "Lord, your pound has made five pounds." He said to him, "And you, rule over five cities."

Matthew

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.”

Luke

Then the other came, saying, “Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.” He said to him, “I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.”

Matthew

So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Luke

He said to the bystanders, “Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.” (And they said to him, “Lord, he has ten pounds!”) “I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and slaughter them in my presence.” ’

How scholars think about a situation like this...

- Maybe the simpler version is more original, because the editor added details.
- Maybe the more complex version is more original, because the editor pared out details.

Either can happen!

Office Hymn: "O God, our help in ages past"

Hymn #68

**1. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**

**3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all our years away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.**

**6. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guide while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

The Prayers

Priest
People
Priest

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, using the
prayer Jesus taught us.
You may unmute yourself
if you choose, and you
may pray using any
version of this prayer that
is in your heart.



Contemporary language:

**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 for ever. Amen.**



Traditional language:

**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.**

Spanish version:

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
Venga tu reino,
Hágase tu voluntad,
En la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos ho nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos
ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el
poder, y tuyo es la gloria,
Ahora y por siempre. Amén.**



Gender-neutral (New Zealand, adapted):

**Loving God, may your name be held holy,
your reign spread among us, and your
will be done well.
With the bread we need for today,
feed us.
From all the binds and burdens us,
free us and help us free others.
In times of temptation and test,
strengthen us.
From trials too sharp to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, save us.
For you reign in the glory of the power
that is love, now and forever. Amen.**





Officiant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.
The people may offer their prayers aloud.



Officiant Let us pray for all those in authority. In this season, we pray especially for all those newly elected to public office, for all those working for justice and equity, for those striving to slow the spread of the pandemic, for those you now name.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.



Officiant Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

We pray especially for those serving our country: Marvin, Jerome, Doug, Joseph, Nicholas, Michael, Anthony, Diane, Eric, Sam, and Brian, and their families.



Officiant Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.



Officiant Let us pray for our local communities. We pray for all essential workers and healthcare workers. This week I invite your prayers for Alexis, Sean, Zach, Cynthia, Tracy, Mike, and Hayden.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.



Officiant Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: John, David, Kate, Barbara, David, Michael, Fred and Audrey, Susan, Caroline, Nate and the family, Rick and Jane, Tom, Joe, Christopher, Cheryl, Jess and Dan; Sandy, Phyllis, Sue, Andréa and Suzanne, Marvalene, Barbara, Helen and Jim, Dan, and Marie. You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

The people may offer additional names.



Officiant Let us pray for all who have died, especially Bob, and for those who mourn, especially Eric and the family.

The people may offer additional names.



Officiant Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Sharing of Blessings

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

Blessing & Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Song: "God be with you till we meet again"

Clay Jones

Giving Campaign Update & Sharing:

Janet Bybee & St. Dunstan's Outreach Giving

Does it work for everybody?

- No, but it works for a lot of people. And it works really well for many people.
- No clear age pattern in who does/doesn't participate
- No known tech barriers (in THIS congregation; may well be elsewhere)

What do people like about it?

JUNE SURVEY: What, if anything, has been the **BEST** thing(s) about our Zoom worship services?

Seeing familiar people: 15. All these responses literally used the word “see”.

Examples: *Able to see the smiling faces of our church family*

Seeing familiar faces and hearing beloved voices read, sing, and pray.

Being together: 11. Most of these responses used the word “together”.

Examples: *Being together in prayer*

Variety of home churches audio/visually uniting in voice

Feeling of community

Ability to interact, pray together, talk, share: 14.

Examples: *Time for reflection on sermon.*

Learning people's names!

Seeing people at home, hearing people's thoughts/joys/concerns

Matching faces to names of newer members

OTHER SIGNIFICANT THEMES: Convenience, continuity, broadening participation...

SURVEY: Which type(s) of virtual worship service appeal to you? (Check all that apply.)

Participating in a live, interactive worship service over Zoom or a similar platform: 60

Viewing a live-streamed (non-interactive) service, perhaps on YouTube or Facebook Live: 34

Viewing a pre-recorded and edited worship service: 15

BREAKING DOWN RESPONSES:

40 people chose ONLY the Zoom response.

10 chose ONLY the live-streamed response.

2 chose ONLY the pre-recorded response.

24 said BOTH Zoom OR one of the other options.

09:22:08From D: Hello B & S! I like your cat.

09:23:19From B & S : :)

09:24:29From D : I love "I've had enough" Moses!

09:29:50From D : I like your pet dinosaur, Ballard Family.

09:36:09From M : For people seeking employment

09:37:40From L : a blessing for my son Jeb on his birthday

09:37:56From D : The Sonoran desert

09:38:22From L : for the creatures in and around the lake

09:38:27From D : the Colorado river system

09:39:07From M : mail carriers

09:39:14From J : teachers, students and their parents

09:39:15From D : for our oversight committee

09:39:44From L : for all those living with addictions

09:39:51From J : for Nate and our family.

09:40:24From J : Blessing for 14 yr old grandson’s successful surgery this past week in CA.

09:41:35From L : for Aidan and his parents

09:41:55From J : Ben. and Anna.

09:43:49From H : for those who are working and can’t take the precautions they would like and can’t afford to stay home

09:44:07From R (11yo) : Thankful for my music theory books!!!!!!

09:44:17From E : S’s driver license and his successful solo drive

09:44:50From JM : For the bounty of crossword puzzles I received early in this time.

09:48:00From D : Thank you for your fine music Deanna!

09:50:32From G : You are amazing, Deanna. What fun this would be—if I had a voice!

09:51:08From M: this is making me cry

09:51:34From J: Thanks to each of you who participated in this morning's service, Miranda again for another sterling homily, to Joanne, Claudia, Mike and Iona for photographs and artwork! I love and so appreciate being a part of this beautiful St. Dunstan family and seeing each of you via Zoom & Chat!! Take good care.

09:51:36From P : So joyful to hear these voices together

09:51:40From J: Thank you, Deanna, Claudia, Rachel, and John!!

09:51:54From A : That was beautiful. Thank you very much

If it sounds like I'm trying to talk you into trying Zoom worship...

I am.

Let me know if I can help you brainstorm what it could look like for your community.

revmiranda@stdunstans.com