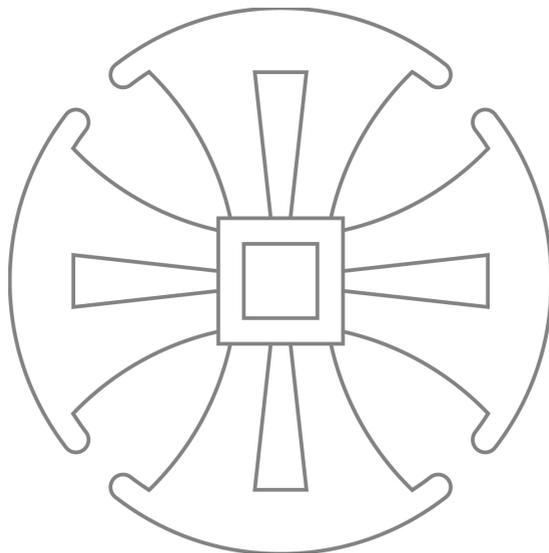


July 26, 2020 at 10am

Pentecost 8



A Liturgy of the Word

Livestream at [Zoom](#) or
watch later on [Facebook](#)



ASCENSION

*We gather on the traditional territory of the
Algonquin Anishinabe Nation.*

Church of the Ascension
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Ottawa, Ontario K1xS 1N3
613-236-3958
churchoftheascension.ca

The Rev'd Rhonda Waters Incumbent
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Opening Hymn – Refiner's Fire

Purify my heart.

Let me be as gold and precious silver.

Purify my heart.

Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy; set apart for you, Lord.

I choose to be holy; set apart for you, my
master;

ready to do your will.

Purify my heart.

Cleanse me from within and make me holy.

Purify my heart.

Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy; set apart for you, Lord.

I choose to be holy; set apart for you, my
master;
ready to do your will.

Opening Prayers and Penitential Rite

God is with us
O come, let us worship!

Although we have come together in digital
space, we each stand in place on solid
ground that is the ancestral territory of
peoples who were here long before the
Europeans crossed the ocean. *I live in the
City of Ottawa which is located on the
unceded territory of the Algonquin
Anishinaabeg people. On whose territory do
you live?*

Silence

Let us pray,

Loving God,

**help us to live respectfully on these lands,
seeking justice and peace.**

**Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing to you with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
so that we might follow Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Silence

God knows the innermost workings of our hearts and God's love does not fail.

Confident, therefore, in God's faithfulness, let us confess our own sins and those of our broken world.

**We need your healing, merciful God:
give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us,
some we cannot face.
Forgive us;
set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you.**

God brings new life for all.
You are forgiven.
Take hold of this forgiveness
and live your life
in the Spirit of Jesus Christ
to bring God's healing to the world.
Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Repeat

First Reading

First Reading – Romans 8: 26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is

written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches

Thanks be to God

Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.
Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your
name.
Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
Let your countenance shine upon your
servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Repeat

The Gospel – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

God is here

The Spirit is with us

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to ...

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus put before them another parable:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard
seed that someone took and sowed in his
field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but
when it has grown it is the greatest of
shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the
birds of the air come and make nests in its

branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the

furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Sermon

Hymn – Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Refrain

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Give praise to Christ's name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the king of creation.

Refrain

Come let us praise the living God.
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Refrain

Affirmation of Faith

Together, let us affirm our faith:

Hear, O Israel

the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

**This is the first and the great
commandment.**

The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers of the People

Collect of the Day

O sovereign God,

in Jesus Christ you set your holy reign
upon this earth and within your people.

So let its coming be like the mustard seed
that grows into greatness,

and like the leaven

that mixes with the grain

until the whole becomes greater,

to the praise of the triune God,

who lives forevermore.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Mother, 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.

Closing Prayers

Blessed be God who calls us together and makes us one.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin and gives us hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed and is revealed to be Love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Glory to God

whose power working in us

can do infinitely more

than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to

generation,

in the Church and in Christ Jesus,

for ever and ever. Amen.

May the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. And the blessing of the Holy Trinity, the Source of all being, the Eternal Word, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this day and forevermore. Amen.

Closing Hymn – Though the Mountains May Fall

Refrain

*Though the mountains may fall
and the hills turn to dust,
yet the love of the Lord will stand
as a shelter for all
who will call upon his name.
Sing the praise
and the glory of God.*

Could the Lord ever leave you?
Could the Lord forget his love?
Though a mother forsake her child,
He will not abandon you.

Refrain

Go to him when you're weary;
he will give you eagle's wings.
You will run, never tire,
for your God will be your strength.

Refrain

As he swore to your forebears,
when the flood destroyed the land.
He will never forsake you;
he will swear to you again.

Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Links for Worship

Zoom Link for Sunday Worship

- **Sunday morning services** are livestreamed at 10am:
<https://zoom.us/j/301177504?pwd=Q3RaZCtIQ3V0OSsreUpFRDV4RDZXUT09>
(or phone 1-587-328-1099). Meeting ID: 301 177 504 Password: 089370
- **Facebook** users can stream an edited version of the service at [facebook.com/ascensionottawa](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionottawa)
- **Service booklets** are available at [churchoftheascension.ca/booklets](https://www.churchoftheascension.ca/booklets)

Zoom Links for Prayer, Fellowship, and Study

- **Thursday Morning Bible Study and Prayer** (aka "Lectio") — Thursdays at 10 am:
Email rhonda@churchoftheascension.ca for a link and password.
- **Thursday Evening Prayer and Bible Study** (based on Lectio) — Second and fourth Thursdays at 8pm
Email rhonda@churchoftheascension.ca for a link and password.
- **Story at the Rectory** — First and third Thursdays at 7:30pm:
<https://zoom.us/j/698700963?pwd=andFNVV3TC9oY3BVVjBBMms5YnBzQT09>
(Meeting ID: 698 700 963; Password 526601)

- **Rhonda's Office Hours:** On Mondays from 4 to 6pm, Rhonda is available for private prayer, conversation, or check-in on [Zoom](#). People are also welcome to call 613-236-3958.

Church at Home

- **Daily Prayer:** New for July! A resource for simple daily prayer at home is available at churchoftheascension.ca/home-church
- **Reflections from a Distance** is a weekly email digest of art, poetry, playlists, and personal reflections. Contributions are welcome; please email rhonda@churchoftheascension.ca.
- **Ascension's Prayer Team** welcomes your prayer requests via email at prayerteamascension@gmail.com.

Make a Donation

If you would like make an online contribution to Church of the Ascension, you may do so via e-transfer to treasurer@churchoftheascension.ca, or with a secure online donation at canadahelps.org.