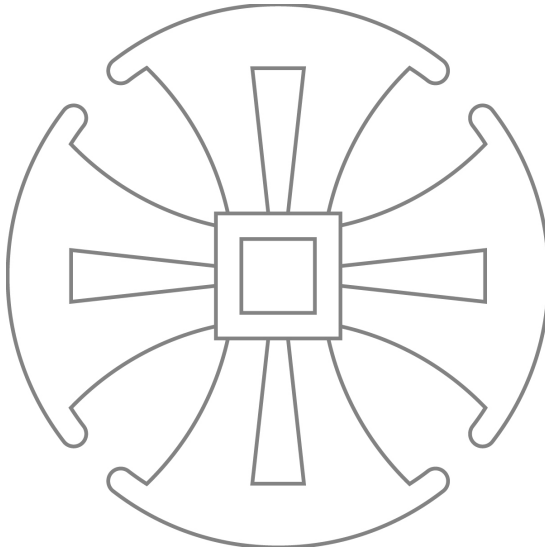


September 13, 2020 at 10am

Pentecost 15



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.*

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The Rev'd Rhonda Waters Incumbent
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Opening Hymn – Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our
days.

Love's banners are o'er us;
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

God's law still enforces
the stars in their courses

and causes the sun in its splendour to
shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean in praises combine.

We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving
"To God in the highest, hosanna and
praise!"

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.

Confident in God's loving kindness, let us call to mind our sins, and those of our society, in the misuse of God's creation

Silence

**Holy One,
we have taken your gifts for granted and treated your creation as if it belonged to us alone. Heal us from our selfishness and show us the way to wholeness for the whole world, in this day and for generations to come.**

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 in the highest, and on earth
Peace to people of good will.

Repeat

First Reading – Exodus 14:19-31

A Reading from the book of Exodus

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand

over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses

stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches
Thanks be to God

Psalm 114

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of
strange speech,

Judah became the sanctuary of the Lord
and Israel the dominion of God.

The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned
and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, and the
little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O
Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
You little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the
Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
who turned the hard rock into a pool of
water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Repeat

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

God is here

The Spirit is with us

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may

be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him

into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Sermon

Hymn – Crashing Waters at Creation

Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage
channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Affirmation of Faith

Together, let us affirm our faith:

**We believe and trust
in God, the Source of all being,
who spoke all creation into being.**

**We believe and trust
in God the Son, Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world.**

**We believe and trust
In God the Holy Spirit
who breathes life into the people of God.**

Prayers of the People

Collect of the Day

God of deep compassion,
you welcome the weak
and free us from the bondage of sin.

Break the cycle of judgement and violence
through Jesus our forgiveness,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
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

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy. As we go forth this day, renewed by your word and strengthened by your people, open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Receive God's blessing that you might be
God's blessing: in the name of the Holy
Trinity who creates, redeems, and
sustains us.

Amen.

Closing Hymn – The River is Here

Down the mountain the river flows
and it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields
the river is rushing and the river is here.

*The river of God sets our feet to dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with
laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.*

The river of God is teeming with life
and all who touch it can be revived,
And those who linger on the river's shore
will come back thirsting for more of the
Lord.

Refrain

Up to the mountain we love to go
to find the presence of the Lord.
Along the banks of the river we run,
we dance with laughter giving praise to the
Son.

Refrain

Down the mountain the river flows
and it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields
the river is rushing and the river is here.

Refrain

Dismissal

Go in the name of Christ to treasure and to tend God's beloved world.

Thanks be to God!

Worship with Ascension

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)

On-Site Worship

Due to the pandemic, we have limited space and are observing other important safety precautions. Please visit

churchoftheascension.ca/church-onsite to read about our onsite services before making your reservation.

- **Holy Eucharist:** Mondays at 7:30pm;
Wednesdays at 2pm
- **Compline:** the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, starting Oct. 13.

Zoom Links for Prayer, Fellowship, and Study

- **Thursday Morning Bible Study and Prayer** — 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.
- **Story at the Rectory** — First and third Thursdays at 7:30pm (Meeting ID: 698 700 963; Password 526601); <https://zoom.us/j/698700963?pwd=andFNWV3TC9oY3BVVjBBMms5YnBzQT09>

Church at Home

- **Daily Prayer:** 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. Prayer Team members are also available to pray with you in a phone call.

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.