

ST. MARK'S IN-THE VALLEY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021, THE 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY: PROPER 19, YEAR B

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude *Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense and Pastoral*

J.S. Bach

BEVERLY STAPLES, organist

Opening Acclamation *(standing, as able)*

Leader Blessed be the ☩ one, holy, and living God.

All **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *Will you come and follow me*
(standing, as able, all please join in singing)

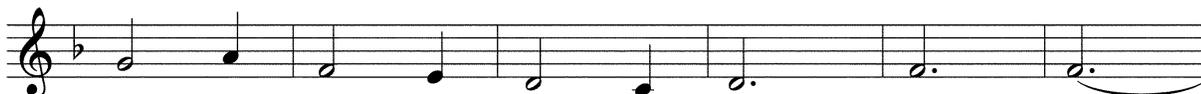
tune *Kelvingrove*



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where
call your name? Will you care for
call your name? Will you set the
call your name? Will you quell the
call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?
cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?
fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you
Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
Will you use the faith you've found To re -
In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your

THE HYMN CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and

life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 what I mean In you and you in me?
 touch and sound In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

The Collect of the Day (*standing, as able*)

Leader God is here.

All **God's spirit is with us.**

Leader Let us pray.

Leader Scandalous God, you suffer our will to power, the narrowness of our faith: lead us on the path of loss where empires tremble and terror yields to wisdom's cry and the open hands of love; through Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord.

All **Amen.**

from Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Steven Shakespeare

The Readings

First Reading (*seated*)

James 3:1-12

Reader A reading from the Letter of James

¹ Only a few of you, my sisters and brothers, should be teachers. You should realize that those of us who are teachers will be called to a stricter account. ² After all, each of us falls from time to time. However, those who never say anything wrong are truly close to perfection, because they can then control every part of themselves.

³ Once we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we control the rest of their bodies. ⁴ The same with ships—no matter how large they are, and even if they are driven by fierce winds, they are directed by a very small rudder to wherever the captain wants to go. ⁵

The tongue is like that. It's a small part of the body, yet it makes great boasts. See how tiny the spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! ⁶ The tongue is such a flame. Among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a whole wicked world in itself. It infects the entire body. Its flames encircle our course from birth, and its fire is kindled by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals—birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea—can be tamed by us, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ We use it to say, "Praised be our God and Creator"; then we use it to curse each other—we who are created in the image of God. ¹⁰ Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This shouldn't be, my sisters and brothers!

¹¹ Does a spring emit both pure water and brackish water? ¹² My sisters and brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or can a grapevine produce figs? No—and neither can a fountain produce both salt water and fresh water.

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Affirmation of Faith (*standing, as able*)

Leader Let us affirm our faith in God.

All ***You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.***

***You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.***

You came to us before we came to you.

***You have revealed and proven
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.***

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are with us always.

You are God.

You are our God. We are your people.

This Affirmation of Faith is based on an Affirmation of Faith in A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynes.

The Prayers of the People (*standing, as able*)

Leader God, awaken our spiritual ears

All ***To learn as people who are good
at being taught,***¹

Leader As people who are comfortable with admitting
when we're wrong,

All ***As people who can confront our own biases,***

Leader As people capable of sitting with paradox,

All ***As people who understand nuance.***

Leader We know this world is full of dualities and absolutes,

All ***Of people who want us to fit into
one category or another,***

Leader Of fights and judgements over this or that issue,

All ***Of projections that have nothing to do
with Wisdom.***

Leader It's often hard to know what to think, or how to be.

All ***Many days, we find ourselves
at the end of our understanding.***

Leader We set our inner tables to welcome the Wisdom of God,

All ***Which offers rest and abundance,***²

Leader Gentle discipline and thoughtful correction,

All ***Which orders all things well.***³

Leader We set our intention to befriend Wisdom,⁴

All ***To respond to Her nudges,***

Leader And heed her counsel,⁵

All ***So that we may live at ease, without dread of disaster.***⁶

Litany for Welcoming Wisdom by Litanist **Fran Pratt**, from her Patreon collections and her book *Call and Response, Litanies for Congregational Prayer*. Find out more about Fran and her work at **franpratt.com**. ©Fran Pratt Used with permission.

1. Isaiah 50:4
2. Psalm 116:7
3. Wisdom 8:1
4. Wisdom 7:28
5. Proverbs 1:25
6. Proverbs 1:33
7. Proverbs 1:20,21
8. Wisdom 7:26,27

Continues...

Leader Help us to lay down all our expectations and assumptions
 All **Every “should” and “ought to,”**
 Leader Every malformed opinion and preconceived notion,
 All **Every trauma-skewed prediction,**
 Leader In favor of attending to Wisdom’s generous call ⁷
 All **And listening deeply to the Divine voice.**

Leader May Wisdom make her home with us,
 All **And find us willing partners in her work.** ⁸ **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution (kneeling, as able)

Leader Let us turn to the Lord our God.
 ~A brief time of quiet for reflection~

All **Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** cf Hosea 6

Leader The God of love and power ✕ forgives us and frees us from our sins, heals and strengthens us in the Spirit, and continually raises us to new life in Christ our Savior.
 All **Amen.**

The Peace (standing, as able)

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.
 All **And also with you.**

All are invited to greet one another and to share a sign of peace.

Announcements (seated)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory

Leader Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings to love and serve the world.
 All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Voluntary *Andante* from *Flute Sonata No.5*

J.S. Bach

NICHOLE DECHAINE, *flutist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Presenting and dedicating our gifts

Presider Yours, Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
 All **All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (standing, as able)

Presider God is here.
 All **God’s Spirit is with us.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
 All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The Great Thanksgiving in today’s liturgy is based on a Eucharistic prayer in *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*.

It is right to praise you, most holy God, Creator of us all; in your love you made us for yourself.

Communion is open to everyone.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are invited to receive communion here. You are welcome to come forward and take the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.

The Invitation (*all are invited to come forward now to receive*)

Leader The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

At Communion *Stein, der über alle Schätze* from *Cantata 152*

J. S. Bach

NICHOLE DECHAINED, soprano and BEVERLY STAPLES, pianist

Translation:

*Stone, beyond all jewels shining,
cornerstone of righteousness,
keep me still, on thee relying,
in the path of holiness,
nevermore thy help denying.*

The Postcommunion Prayer (*standing, as able*)

Presider Let us pray.

All ***God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

The Blessing (*standing, as able*)

Presider May we remain open to wonder and mystery, to what is strange and new and precious in each child of God, that with all the saints we might walk in the light of hope; and the ✠ blessing of God Almighty: Creating Presence, Redeeming Christ, and Life-giving Spirit, be with us and remain with us for ever.

All ***Amen.***

Dismissal (*standing, as able*)

Leader Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;

All ***render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

THE POSTCOMMUNION HYMN IS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

Postlude *A Festal Fanfare*

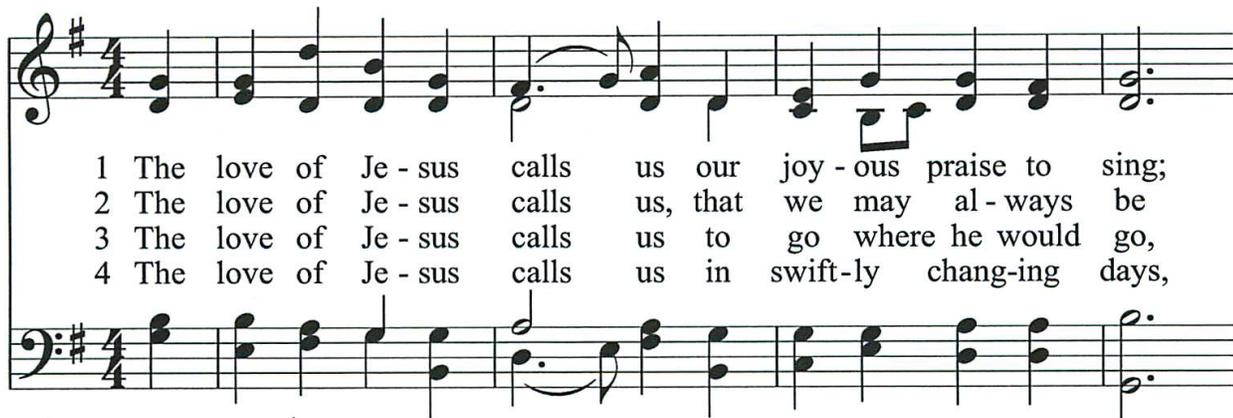
J. S. Bach

BEVERLY STAPLES, organist

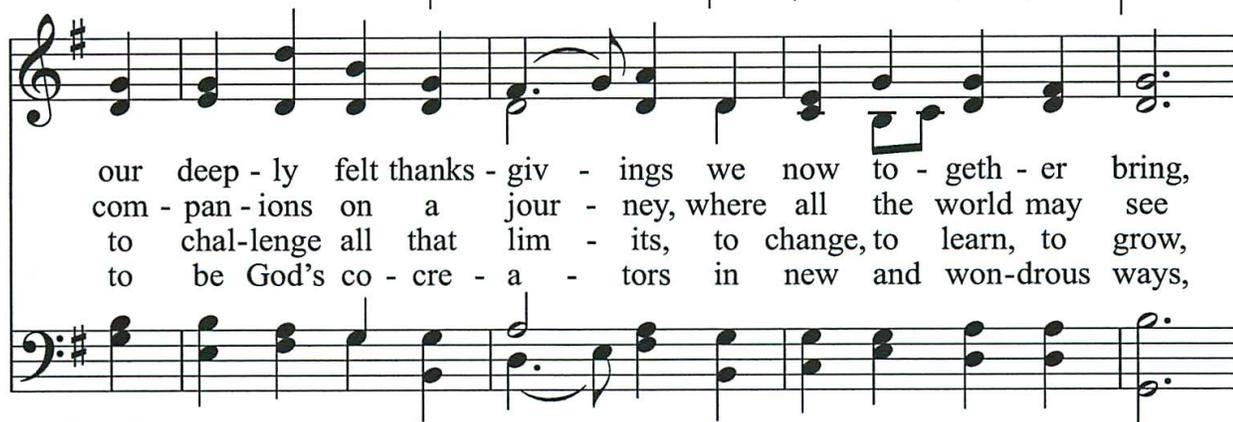
Procession Out (standing, as able, all please join in singing)

Hymn *The love of Jesus calls us*

tune *Es flog ein kleins Waldvoegelein*



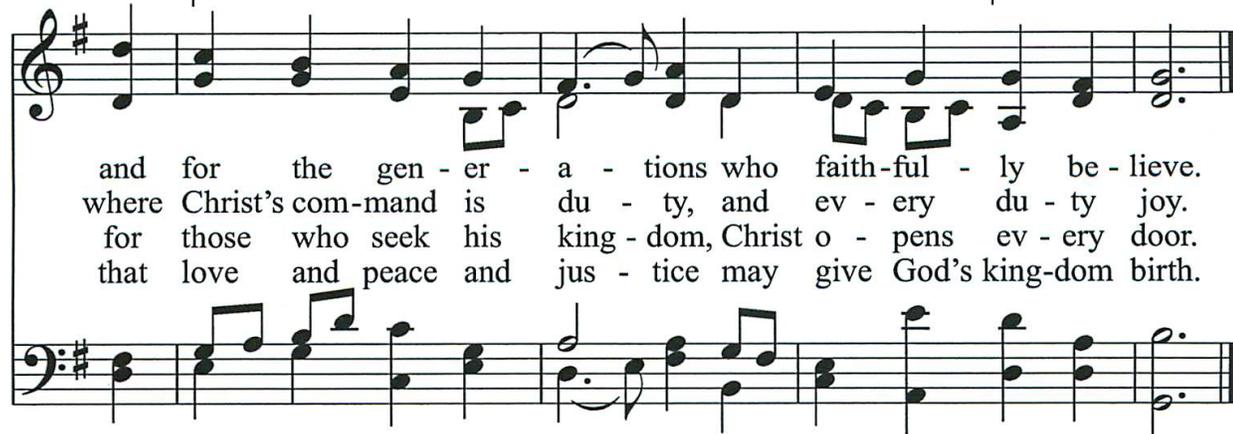
1 The love of Je - sus calls us our joy - ous praise to sing;
2 The love of Je - sus calls us, that we may al - ways be
3 The love of Je - sus calls us to go where he would go,
4 The love of Je - sus calls us in swift - ly chang - ing days,



our deep - ly felt thanks - giv - ings we now to - geth - er bring,
com - pan - ions on a jour - ney, where all the world may see
to chal - lenge all that lim - its, to change, to learn, to grow,
to be God's co - cre - a - tors in new and won - drous ways,



for all God's man - y bless - ings, un - asked yet still re - ceived,
that serv - ing Christ is free - dom which time does not de - stroy,
to know that Christ has freed us, that pris - ons are no more;
that God with men and wom - en may so trans - form the earth,



and for the gen - er - a - tions who faith - ful - ly be - lieve.
where Christ's com - mand is du - ty, and ev - ery du - ty joy.
for those who seek his king - dom, Christ o - pens ev - ery door.
that love and peace and jus - tice may give God's king - dom birth.