

**A Service of Evening Prayer**  
**Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church**  
**Readings Commemorating Priscilla and Aquila, co-workers of the Apostle Paul (1<sup>st</sup> Century C.E.)**  
July 8, 2020

**Opening Chant: Open My Heart**

*Ana Hernandez*  
*Music By Heart #31*

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system contains three staves: Part 1 (treble clef), Part 2 (treble clef), and Part 3 (bass clef). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and lyrics.

**Opening Sentence**

*Officiant*

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." Acts 2:1-2

*Officiant*

Let us pray.

*All*

***Gracious God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.***

**Light of the World *Phos hilaron***

*Light of the world, in grace and beauty,  
Mirror of God's eternal face,  
Transparent flame of love's free duty,  
You bring salvation to the human race.  
Now, as we see the lights of evening,  
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;  
Worthy are you of endless blessing,  
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.*

**Psalm 119: 33-40**

*Antiphon Christ came to bring the good news of peace: peace to you who were far away.*

**33 Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes, \* and I shall keep it to the end.  
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \* I shall keep it with all my heart.  
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \* for that is my desire.  
36 Incline my heart to your decrees \* and not to unjust gain.  
37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \* give me life in your ways.  
38 Fulfil your promise to your servant, \*which you make to those who fear you.  
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \* because your judgements are good.  
40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \* in your righteousness preserve my life.**

*Antiphon Christ came to bring the good news of peace: peace to you who were far away.*

**First Reading**

*Lector:* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (18:1-4, 18-21, 24-28).

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow. When they reached Ephesus, he left them there, but first he himself went into the synagogue and had a discussion with the Jews. When they asked him to stay longer, he declined; but on taking leave of them, he said, 'I will return to you, if God wills.' Then he set sail from Ephesus.

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

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

All                    **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

Ephesians 4:17; 14-16

**Let us lead a life worthy of the calling\*  
to which we have been called.**

**Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit\*  
in the bond of peace.**

**There is one body and one Spirit,\*  
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.**

**There is one Word, one faith, one baptism,\*  
one Creator and God of all,  
who is above all, and through all, and in all.**

**Each of us was given grace\*  
according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

**Let us no longer be children,\*  
tossed about by every wind of doctrine,  
but speaking the truth in love,**

**Let us grow up in every way\*  
into the one who is the head, into Christ.**

**Second Reading**

Reader            A reading from the Gospel of Luke (24:28-35).

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

All                    **Thanks be to God.**

**Shared Reflection**

**The Magnificat**

Antiphon            **How beautiful upon the mountains\*  
are the feet of those who bring good tidings, who publish peace.**

*My soul proclaims your greatness, O God;  
my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior, \*  
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.*

*From this day all generations will call me blessed; \*  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,  
and holy is your Name.*

*You have mercy on those who fear you \*  
from generation to generation.*

*You, O God, have shown strength with your arm, \*  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*

*Casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
And lifting up the lowly.*

*You have filled the hungry with good things \*  
and sent the rich away empty.*

*You have come to the help of your servant Israel, \*  
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,*

*The promise made to our forebears, \*  
to Abraham, Sara and their children forever.*

*Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*

*Antiphon      How beautiful upon the mountains\*  
are the feet of those who bring good tidings, who publish peace.*

### **The Prayers**

*Officiant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*God in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.*

### **Suffrages**

V. Show us your mercy, O God;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
 R. **Let your people sing with joy.**  
 V. Give peace, O God, in all the world;  
 R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
 V. O God, keep this nation under your care;  
 R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
 V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
 R. **Your saving health among all nations.**  
 V. Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten;  
 R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
 V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
 R. **And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.**

### Collects

#### *Officiant*

God of grace and might, who gave to your servants Aquila and Priscilla gifts of zeal and eloquence to make known the truth of the Gospel: Raise up, we pray, in all places heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, so that the world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O Christ, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear God, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O God, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Officiant*        Let us bless God.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

#### *Officiant*

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

### Sources

- The Chant "Open My Heart" is by Ana Hernandez and can be found in Music By Heart (New York: Church Publishing, 2008), 31.
- This evening prayer service is adapted from Vespers in the *Saint Helena Breviary* (Church Publishing, 2006); Evening Prayer in *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998); and the *Book of Common Prayer* (Church Publishing, 1979)
- The Psalm translation is adapted from A Liturgical Psalter which can be found online at: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>
- The readings for Priscilla and Aquila can be found at <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Priscilla&Aquila.html>