

Zoom Meeting ID: 326 920 7504

Call-in option: 1) Dial 646-568-7788 or 929-205-6099, 2) Enter 326 920 7504 # and 3) Press # for a participant's ID

Officiant Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. *Philippians 4:6*

Confession of Sins

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **We repent the wrongs we have done:**

We have wounded your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Officiant Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips, *+(you may cross your lips with a right thumb)*

Celebrants **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

The Steadfast Love of the Lord *Lamentation 3:22-26*

All **The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases:**

God's mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning:

your faithfulness, O Lord, is great.

You are all that I have:

and therefore, I will wait for you.

You O Lord are good to those who wait for you:

to all those who seek you.

It is good to wait in patience:

for the salvation of the Lord.

Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

The Lesson

Reader A Lesson from *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Celebrants **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133 *Ecce, quam bonum!*

All **1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, ***
when brethren live together in unity!
2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Hymn #470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Words: Frederick William Faber
Music: *Beecher*, John Zundel

Reflection

Paul Yoon

One of many reasons why stereotypes cannot become helpful information is that they fixate on a generic idea or image of all that they amount to. Not all Asians are good at mathematics (though your living example from that population at St. Agnes' is quite good at it). Sloths are not really lazy but very slow due to their extremely low metabolic rate since slow doesn't mean lazy.

The issue with stereotypes is one's tendency to fixate on something that one believes to be true. This issue is not merely limited to stereotypes. It can develop into stubbornness or narrow-mindedness. It closes off any open communication or possibility for growth and doesn't invite any changes. A business will not be successful if it simply does things in the way it always has been without adapting itself to changing market needs. Dogmatism doesn't help people feel free but regulates and imprisons what ought to be believed and followed. The problem is with fixation.

In the lesson this morning, we see both Jesus and his friends in a state of fixation. Jesus' friends are fixated on the idea that the Canaanite (gentile) woman should not ask for help from Jews or shout after them. Also, considering cultural biases and limitations towards women, we can guess that it's not moderate for women to shout in public. So the friends ask Jesus to send her away.

Quite surprisingly Jesus isn't too different from them. (But don't be too quick to be disappointed in him.) Jesus is also fixated on the belief that he is "sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." His saying, whether it is intentional to expose the general attitude of the Israelites against Gentiles as a shock pedagogy, gets worse when he says, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." If he heals the daughter of the gentile woman who is not part of the

lost sheepfold, he becomes an unfair parent who wastes children's food on dogs. He is not called to be an unfair and irresponsible feeder.

The Canaanite woman, however, breaks free of Jesus and his friends' cultural and religious fixation. She doesn't restrain herself on their terms. How she does it is rather satirical, mischievous, and so wise while setting her focus solely on her daughter's healing in desperation. She dares to become a dog. There's no sign of her feelings being hurt or offended or insulted. No resentment to Jesus. She's not fixated on her self-image or how she should be treated. she's truly free to become what's needed for her to heal her daughter. This in turn means she's free to become an undesirable one according to the customs and traditions of her time. Nothing can get in her way.

Her skillful becoming creates in the wall of Jesus' fixation a gap or a crack through which the Spirit of freedom and change penetrates. As she is willing to become a dog in his analogy, he is invited to become an unfair feeder. He still has a choice to remain a fair feeder but is persuaded to break free from his fixation. He too becomes what's conventionally conceived to be not desired. So he says, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." If I may add a comment to his saying, it would be, "Great is your faith to help me expand and get out of my fixated view on whom I am sent and called to do God's work!"

Perhaps today's story from the gospel isn't just about how the Canaanite woman's faith heals her demon-tormented daughter. It may also be about how her skillful becoming of who she's called to be at the needs of those in need opens Jesus and his friends' fixated hearts so that they're no longer led by a god created in their own image but by the living presence of the Spirit. It almost looks like Jesus is prepared to become an unfair feeder in the following story of feeding the four thousand after today's lesson (12:29-39).

You can see the domino effect that is caused by the Canaanite woman's faith that grounds her in the presence of God and helps Jesus reconsider his calling which is not just for his fellow Jews but for all. The Canaanite woman's skillful becoming sounds like St. Paul who once said, "To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law, I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Cor. 9:20-22) This freedom to become like water is rooted in one's experience of God's indwelling presence which vanishes our sense of being thrown into the world and fills the empty space or void with the Breath of God.

The question to reflect on this morning would be to ask ourselves, "How fixated or free are we from who we become for the service of others in love?"



The Apostles' Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Celebrants **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray, singing

**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.**

The Supplication *Pray responsively.*

- V. For the hungry and the overfed
- R. May we have enough.**
- V. For the mourners and the mockers
- R. May we laugh together.**
- V. For the victims and the oppressors
- R. May we share power wisely.**
- V. For the peacemakers and the warmongers
- R. May clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony.**
- V. For the silenced and the propagandists
- R. May we speak our own words in truth.**
- V. For the unemployed and the overworked
- R. May our impression on the earth be kindly and creative.**

- V. For the troubled and the sleek
- R. May we live together as wounded healers.**
- V. For the homeless and the cosseted
- R. May our homes be simple, warm and welcoming.**
- V. For the vibrant and the dying
- R. May we all die to live.**

The Collect for Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

All **Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

For the Mission of the Church (*Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century)*)

Celebrant O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery, and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence carry out the work of our salvation: and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up and things which had grown old are being made new and that all things are returning to perfection through him from whom they took their origin, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those Suffering from Mental Distress

Celebrant Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, we lay before you the memories that haunt those who are suffering from various mental distress, the anxieties that perplex them, the despair that frightens them, and their frustration at their inability to think clearly. Help them to discover your forgiveness in their memories and know your peace in their distress. Fill them with your light and your hope. **Amen.**

A Collect for New Insights

Celebrant Eternal Father, through the resurrection of your Son, help us to face the future with courage and assurance, knowing that nothing in death or life can ever part us from your love. **Amen.**

For those we Love

Celebrant Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for the better things that we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those Facing Great Uncertainty

Celebrant God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to those who wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. **Amen.**

A Collect for Wisdom

Celebrant God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. **Amen.**

For Generosity

Celebrant Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do your will. **Amen.**

A General Thanksgiving

All **God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit**

be our goal and our strength now and always.

Praise and glory to you creator Spirit of God;
you make our bread Christ's body
to heal and reconcile
and to make us the body of Christ.
You make our wine Christ's living sacrificial blood
to redeem the world.

You are truth.

You come like the wind of heaven, unseen, unbidden.

Like the dawn

you illuminate the world around us;
you grant us a new beginning every day.

You warm and comfort us.

You give us courage and fire
and strength beyond our everyday resources.

Be with us Holy Spirit in all we say or think,
in all we do this and every day.

Father, may we who have received this sacrament
live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,
that we may show forth your gifts to all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Officiant
Celebrants

God's power, working in us,
does more than we imagine: Glory to God!

Officiant

The Wisdom of God,
the Love of God
and the Grace of God strengthen us
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

(source: Celtic)



Die Mütter (The Mothers), Kathe Kollwitz, 1921-2

Saint Agnes Church
65 Union Ave, Little Falls, NJ 07424
Serving people of Little Falls and surrounding communities since 1896,
Saint Agnes Church is a part of the Episcopal/Anglican branch
of the Jesus Movement in the Diocese of Newark, striving to be a contemplative community.