

Sanctity of Life Healing Service

Wednesday January 20, 2010

(Please stand upon entrance of the clergy)

Welcome by the Rev. Coleman Tyler

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness –

Celebrant: “This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit – that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us pray....

ALL: Dear Heavenly Father, You formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. We bless You. At our creation Your eyes saw our unformed substance. We praise You, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works. Purify our hearts. Deliver us from Satan’s deception and enlighten us with an understanding of Your truth. Grant us a spirit of repentance and a love for Your truth. Help us to fix our eyes on You. You are our hearts’ desire. Amen.

Lesson: Genesis 1:26-31

“I Hear Your Voice” performed by the Truro Worship Dancers

Psalm 103:1-22 (said responsively by whole verse)

(Standing) The Gospel: John 6:35-40

(Seated) The Message: Georgette Forney, President, Anglicans for Life

INTERCESSIONS (Kneeling)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray...

ALL: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that as a nation, a church and individually we have not honored You as the Creator and Sustainer of Life. As a nation and as its citizens we have lost an

appreciation for the gift of life. We repent and confess that our country has turned from Your life-giving ways by endorsing abortion, assisted suicide and embryonic stem cell research through our laws. Deliver us, and our nation, from deception and apathy as human beings are turned into objects. Stir our hearts for a passion to protect, respect and celebrate the life of every human being, created in Your image. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Celebrant: Lord, touch the hearts of those with authority who set policy, at all levels in our government, to recognize their responsibility to protect and respect life. Let our nation re-commit itself to ensuring life, liberty and justice for all, born and unborn. May we be a nation under Your divine authority and always honor the sanctity of life.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Strengthen and protect those who seek to minister to those affected by abortion and bless the local pregnancy centers, adoption agencies, Anglicans for Life, and all others who work in life-affirming ministry.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, give Your Church, bishops, and ordained leaders wisdom and courage to stand for Your life-giving truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, empower Your people through Your Holy Spirit to be agents of change, offering Your gift of everlasting life to transform our culture.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, we pray for all those who are grieving the loss of a life precious to You. Help them find reconciliation with You, themselves, and others according to Your perfect justice and mercy.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, we remember the lives of those who have died by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryonic stem cell research. May Jesus gather them as His own, and carry them close to His heart for all eternity.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, change the hearts of those who promote death through abortion, assisted suicide, and embryonic stem cell research, and turn them to you.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Create repentant hearts in the doctors, nurses, researchers, clinic owners and those who profit from the loss of life, and turn them to you.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For family members who were unable to offer love and support when we were vulnerable and in need of grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: Blessed Jesus, we bring ourselves into Your loving presence. Come, Holy Spirit, give us courage to be vulnerable in Your presence. Send forth your healing touch of love to soften our hearts hardened from grief, pain and loss. Forgive us for the loss of life through our pride, ignorance, or apathy. Cleanse us from all unforgiveness, self-blame, resentment, jealousy, self-pity, pride, or anything else that might block Your healing love. Come, Lord Jesus, fill us with the balm of Your presence, and heal our pain, that we may experience Your love and acceptance in our hearts. Touch us with Your Divine, transforming presence, that we may be healed, restored, and reconnected to You, our Father. Take from us all misguided fear and help us to trust in You, that we would live to glorify You, and help establish Your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We praise You and worship You, Lord God.

Celebrant: May God in His love enlighten our hearts that we may seek forgiveness and extend forgiveness. Help us to be honest with ourselves and repent of our sins rooted in self and unbelief. Help us to overcome the pain of our loss and enable us to experience true repentance and seek to amend our ways.

ALL: O Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Specifically we ask You to forgive us for failing to honor You as our Creator, the Sanctifier of all human life, created in Your image. Have mercy upon us, O God, after Your great goodness; According to the multitude of Your great mercies, cover our offenses in Your blood, and cleanse us from our sins; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (spoken by clergy): *May the Almighty God rich in mercy receive your confession of sorrow and faith, forgive you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.*

SHARING GOD'S PEACE *(all standing)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Song: There is a Redeemer –

THE HOLY COMMUNION & ANOINTING FOR HEALING

All are welcome to partake in the Holy Communion. The Celebrant will give instructions for the taking of the Bread and Wine and will refer you to Page 367 in the Book of Common Prayer (red

books in the rack on the back of each pew) where the liturgy is found. The servers at the altar, when you go forward, will gladly help those who are unfamiliar with receiving Communion. After receiving the Bread and the Wine, everyone is welcome and encouraged to remain at the altar rail and receive, upon your forehead, the Anointing for Healing.

Those who desire extended prayers may go to the front side benches or front row after receiving Communion. As you return to your seat after Communion, you are invited to light a candle in honor of the memory of a loved one.

Communion Hymn: O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus -

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Kneeling or Seated)

ALL: Thank You, God, for Your healing love at work within me. Thank You, God, for Your healing love at work within all of us gathered here. Thank You, God, for Your healing love at work within those for whom we have interceded. Thank You, God, for Your healing love at work throughout all the world. Thank You God for the assurance of forgiveness and freedom. I love You - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment; You are forever,
Lord of the ages, God before time.
We are a vapor; You are eternal,
Love everlasting, reigning on high!

*Refrain: Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty,
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain,
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your Name, be unto Your Name.*

We are the broken; You are the healer.
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save!
You are the love song, we'll sing forever,
Bowling before You, blessing Your Name! (*Refrain*)

Closing Prayer: Lord God, thank You for creating human life in Your image. Thank You for my life and the lives of those I love. Thank You for teaching us through Scripture the value You place on life. Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community. I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord. Amen.