

“Reckless Love”

Before I spoke a word
You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath
You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

O the overwhelming never-ending
Reckless love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending
Reckless love of God

When I was Your foe
Still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth
You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me

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Children's Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Shepley

Collect of the Day (Celebrant and People)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading:

Reader: A reading from Isaiah. (60:1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



- 1 Give the King your justice, O **God**, *and your righteousness to the King's **son**;
- 2 That he may rule your people **righteously** *and the poor with **justice**.
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the **people**, *and the little hills bring **righteousness**.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the **people**; *he shall rescue the poor and crush the op-**pressor**.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon en-**dure**, *from one generation to a **-nother**.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown **field**, *like showers that water the **earth**.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous **flourish**; *there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no **more**.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay **tribute**, *and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer **gifts**.
- 11 All kings shall bow down be-**fore him**, *and all the nations do him **service**.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in dis-**ress**, *and the oppressed who has no **helper**.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and **poor**; *he shall preserve the lives of the **needy**.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and **violence**, *and dear shall their blood be in his **sight**.
Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**,* and to the Holy **Spirit**:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall be**,
*world without end. A-**men**.

Second Reading:

Reader: A reading from Ephesians. (3:1-12)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (Verses 1-2)

Hymnal, 112

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (Verses 3-4)

Hymnal, 112

Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Shepley

Nicene Creed (Please Stand As Able)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People (You May Stand, Sit, or Kneel)

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Universal Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We remember the faithful departed this day in whose memory the altar flowers are given:
Joseph Forcier-Allen, Keith James Allen, George Schofield, and Barbara B. Trask.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

Confession of Sin (Please Kneel)

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Celebrant and People.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace (Please Stand As Able)

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory (Please Stand As Able) “Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)”

All these pieces broken and scattered
In mercy gathered mended and whole
Empty handed but not forsaken
I've been set free, I've been set free

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Oh I once was lost but now I am found
Was blind but now I see

Oh I can see You now
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying Yourself down
Raising up the broken to life

You take our failure, You take our weakness
You set Your treasure in jars of clay
So take this heart Lord I'll be Your vessel
The world to see Your life in me

Joel Houston | Jonas Myrin © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing CCLI License # 33760

Presentation

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Alleluia, Alleluia

Great Thanksgiving (Please Stand As Able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Hymnal, S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my

Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, *We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Agnus Dei

John Merbecke, 1549



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive in one kind is considered full communion. If you choose to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know as you kneel at the altar rail. For those who wish to intinct the Bread, by dipping it in the Wine rather than

drinking directly from the Chalice, you may signify this choice by holding the consecrated Bread between your fingers. Please intinct the Bread in the small Chalice which will come before the larger Chalice. After you leave the altar rail, please know that we have prayer servants in the hallway available to pray with you.

Communion Songs

“Before You Now”

Before you now
In the beauty of your presence,
And as I bow
You surround me with your radiance.

I worship, I worship you.
I worship, I worship you.

Before you now
As your loving arms enfold me

I am in awe
At the wonder of your glory

I worship, I worship you.
I worship, I worship you.

I’ve surrendered to your call upon my heart.
I am captured by your passion and desire.

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“Set A Fire”

No place I would rather be
No place I would rather be
No place I would rather be
Than here in Your love
Here in Your love

Set a fire down in my soul
That I can't contain and I can't control
I want more of You God
I want more of You God

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“How Great is Your Love” (Please Stand)

In the dark of night I call Your Name
I am waiting for morning
In all my pain and suffering
You are standing beside me
I am safe in the shadow of your wings

From the mountain tops
To the deepest valley
I will praise Your Name,
The one who goes before me
Hallelujah, Jesus you are my refuge
How great is your love

You calm the storm inside of me
You speak peace to my troubles
You lift me up on eagles wings
You give me strength when I’m weary
My hope and trust is in You Lord, and I sing

From the depths oh Lord, I cry to You
Waiting for you, Lord to make me new
In the dark of night You are the light
Oh shine your light, down upon me

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Postcommunion Prayer (Remain Standing)

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

Hymnal, 119

Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

J. C. Bach



Annual Reports Due January 14th

Reports from Vestry Members, Committee Chairpersons, and others to be included in Saint Paul's Annual Report for 2018 **must be emailed to;**
bethmiller.stpaul@gmail.com by Monday, January 14th.
Thank you for submitting your reports on time

Pray It Up!

Notice the Red and White prayer request cards in the pew? Each Sunday, fill out your request, put it in the red bowl on the table on the way to communion. Then take a card from the bowl either right then or after service. Pray for that request for one week. How comforting to know that your request is being prayed for and that you are praying for someone else's! You might just be praying for the person sitting next to you! Or, if you'd prefer - please send your request to St. Paul's at prayingnow2@gmail.com!

*

Upon entering the church, please turn off your cell phone or switch it to a worship respectful setting. Please be sure to dispose of all food and drinks before entering the church. Thank You!

Synthesis CE Study Guide

You may pick up a copy of the week's Synthesis CE Study Guide, as well as the following week's, for your personal use. They are located at the back of the church. Thank You!

Prayer Servant Teams

Prayer for any need or request is available at each service. After you have received communion, please see one of our trained Prayer Servant Teams (with the Blue Name Badges) who are available at the open side door at the entrance to the Vesting Room. Prayer is available in the Vesting Room, Hallway or Back Room as space is available. Our Prayer Servants are ready to confidentially take your request and pray for you and with you. Should you wish to schedule a private prayer time, please let Fr. Joe or Mary Perry, Prayer Ministry Leader (maryperry2@me.com) know and we will work with you to schedule a convenient time. Your Prayer Servants today are 8:00 Donna Cennamo and Pat Brought, 10:30 Walter VonEgidy.

Calendar for the Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

Sun., Jan. 6	-	8:00 AM	-	Traditional Eucharist
		9:30 AM	-	Rector's Forum
		10:30 AM	-	Sunday School
		10:30 AM	-	Contemporary Eucharist
Mon., Jan. 7	-	10:00 AM	-	Christian Caring
		7:00 PM	-	Stephen Ministry
		7:00 PM	-	Men's Bible Study
Tue., Jan. 8	-	9:15 AM	-	Ladies Bible Study
		5:45 PM	-	PraiseKicks
Wed., Jan. 9	-	10:00 AM	-	Holy Eucharist and Healing
		7:00 PM	-	Staff Meeting
		7:30 PM	-	Vestry Meeting
Thu., Jan. 10	-	7:30 PM	-	Music Night
Sat., Jan. 12	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		9:15 AM	-	PraiseKicks
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves
		10:00 AM	-	Jericho Food Pantry

**Next Sunday — First Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Psalm 29

Saint Paul's Staff

Rector
Wardens
Parish Office Coordinator
Organist and Choirmaster
Coord. of Contemporary Worship & Family Ministries
Sunday School Administrator
Sexton

The Reverend Joseph Shepley
Mary Perry and David Williams
Beth Miller
Kirsten Peterson
Patrick O'Connors
Nicole O'Connors
Doug Melody