

St Francis Episcopal Church, San Jose, CA  
Morning Prayer, Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
Commemoration of Alred of Rievaulx  
Abbott, Monastic, c 1167

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When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text *Reader 2: Italics* **Both: Bold**  
**If there are 2 lessons, a reading and subsequent canticle may be omitted.**

**You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.**

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Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!  
*Darkness covers the earth and its people,*  
but the radiance of God's Light  
*burns away its shadows,*  
illuminates the smallest corner,  
*and heralds in the start*  
of a new dawn,  
*where hearts no longer fear,*  
souls might be set free,  
*and sister shall follow brother,*  
nation shall follow nation,  
*and kings and princes bow down in awe*  
before the one who comes to reign.  
*Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!*  
**Alleluia!**

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O Lord, open our lips  
*and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts  
*and triumph over the shades of night.*

**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.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.  
As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever.  
*Amen.*

Psalm 36

<sup>5</sup> Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup> *Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,*

*your judgements are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.*

<sup>7</sup> How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup> *They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.*

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

<sup>10</sup> O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

**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.**

*A reading from the Book of Philippians*

*2If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger  
and thirst after righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.**

**Blessed are those who suffer persecution  
for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Rejoice and be glad  
for great is your reward in heaven.**

**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.**

*A reading from Gospel of John*

*<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*

*<sup>12</sup>'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants\* any longer, because the servant\* does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

*The Word of the Lord*

Thanks be to God.

**A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.**

**Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.**

**Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy;**

**there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.**

**The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

**It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,<sup>[9]</sup> says the LORD.**

**But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

**No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.**

**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.**

The Apostles' Creed

**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

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*  
Let us pray.

**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.**

Grant to your people, Almighty God, a spirit of mutual affection, that, following the example of your servant Aelred of Rievaulx, we might know the love of Christ in loving one another; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:  
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;  
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ.  
*Amen*

[https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Epiphany.htm#gsc.tab=0](https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Epiphany.htm#gsc.tab=0)

Lord Jesus,  
I give you my hands to do your work.  
I give you my feet to go your way.  
I give you my eyes to see as you do.  
I give you my tongue to speak your words.  
I give you my mind that you may think in me.  
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.  
Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all mankind.  
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus,  
who live, and work, and pray in me. *Amen.*  
<http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pages/Prayers.htm>

Hear our prayer for all those who will die today because of war and economic oppression, especially the children. Prepare them for the agony, despair, and terror of the violence that is upon them. Comfort them and hold them close to the bosom of your heart as they drink deeply of the bitter cup which is forced upon them. Wipe their tears, calm their fears, welcome them to peace and safety. Eternal rest grant to them, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May all rise in judgment against the wickedness that brings this violence upon the world. Overturn the thrones of tyranny, scatter the unjust, cast down the bloody rulers who make the cry of the widow and orphan rise to heaven. Give us your grace and strength to stand against the demonic powers which prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Grant that peace with justice will come to all the world. *Amen.*

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Lead us from death to life, *from falsehood to truth.*  
Lead us from despair to hope, *from fear to trust.*  
Lead us from hate to love, *from war to peace.*  
**Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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# AELRED OF RIEVAULX

ABBOT (12 JANUARY 1167)

Aelred was born in 1109 at Durham, and was sent to the Scottish court for an education that would ensure his future as a noble and courtier. He succeeded, to the extent of being made Master of the Household of the King of Scotland. Nevertheless, he found success at the court of an earthly king unsatisfying, and at the age of 24 he entered the Cistercian monastery at Rievaulx in Yorkshire. Bernard of Clairvaux encouraged him to write his first work, *The Mirror of Charity*, which deals with seeking to follow the example of Christ in all things. In 1147 he became abbot of Rievaulx, a post which he held until his death of kidney disease twenty years later at the age of 57.



His most famous work is called *Spiritual Friendship* (both it and the *Mirror* have been published in English by the Cistercian Press).

When Jesus was told that his family was waiting to see him, he replied, "All who do the will of my Father are my family." From this, some Christians have drawn the conclusion that the *only* kind of love permissible to a Christian is Charity -- that is: (a) the universal benevolence that wills the good of all persons, and (b) the bond that unites the Christian with Christ and through Christ with all other Christians. Note that Universal Benevolence is extended equally to all persons (we are to love Jones because God made him), and that the bond of Christian Unity unites us equally with all our fellow Christians who are in a state of grace (we are to love Jones because Christ dwells in him). Neither leaves any room for particular friendships, for liking Jones more than Smith because Jones shares our interest in hockey, or because Jones and we like the same sort of jokes, or come from the same part of the country and have similar childhood memories, or because Jones is an easy-going type and it is easy to relax and feel comfortable around him, or because Jones and we have a special bond of friendship, loyalty, and trust. Particular friendships are *out!*

Some who do not think that every Christian must renounce particular friendships believe that every monastic must do so. In many religious houses, where the monks or nuns walk two by two into chapel or the dining hall or while pacing about during the daily hour of recreation, the superior will make a point of constantly shifting partners, lest anyone form a liking for one partner more than another. (This does not apply just to friends. It is sometimes held that no monk ought to allow himself any preferences in food or drink.) Against this view, Aelred wrote that it is compatible with the highest degree of Christian perfection to take special pleasure in the company of particular friends. He point out that we are told that Jesus loved John, and Mary, and Martha, and Lazarus, and that this probably means that he found their company congenial.

*by James Kiefer*

<http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Aelred.htm>