

St Francis Episcopal Church, San Jose, CA
Morning Prayer, Thursday, Sept 10, 2020↑
Commemoration of Alexander Crummell,
Teacher and Prophetic Witness, 1890

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.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou for the name of thy Majesty; praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; praised and exalted above all for ever.

**Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths, and dwellest between the herubim;
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; praised and exalted above
all for ever.**

Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; praised and exalted above all for ever.

**Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; praised and exalted above all for
ever.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is
now
and shall 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 19

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 *The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.*

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 *More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.*

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

21 He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? 22For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. 23Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' 24And he said to them, 'Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. 25For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me proved me and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways.

Unto whom I swore in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall 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.**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the gospel to those who were far off and to those who were near. Raise up in this and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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.*

O God, open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;
Open our ears that we may hear their cries; open our hearts that we may feel their anguish
and their joy.

Let us not be afraid to defend the oppressed, the poor, the powerless, because of the anger and might of the powerful. Show us where love and hope and faith are needed, and use us to bring them to those places. Open our ears and eyes, our hearts and lives, that we may in these coming days be able to do some work of justice and peace for you. *Amen.*

O God: You bring hope out of emptiness, energy out of fear, new life out of grief and loss. As Mary returned to mourn yet found unspeakable joy, so comfort all who have lost their homes through persecution, war, exile, or deliberate destruction. Give them security, a place to live, and neighbors they trust to be, with them, a new sign of peace to the world. *Amen*

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;
For You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;
For You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
For You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
For You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power,
To do instead of just pray,

To become instead of merely to wish.ⁱ

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.

Spirit of God,

We have heard your call to share in building up the Kingdom of God.

Fill us with the desire to change ourselves and to change the world.

Enflame our passion for justice into a commitment to address unjust situations and structures.

Deepen our concern for our sisters and brothers in America and overseas who endure the burdens of poverty, war, exploitation and persecution.

Let us enthusiastically play our part in the mission of the Church in the modern world.

Banish any complacency in our hearts and minds.

Teach us to recognize the lack of justice.

May we always act in the Spirit of justice.

May we envisage, pray about and create a different sort of world in which injustice is replaced with a renewed sense of solidarity and care.

Enlivened by the Spirit, may we go forth in the peace of the Holy Spirit to love and serve the Lord.ⁱⁱ *Amen*

Thanks be to God.

ⁱ <https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/justice/>

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Alexander Crummell was born in New York City in 1819, and wished to study for the priesthood, but received many rebuffs because he was black. He was ordained in the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1844, when he was 25 years old, but was excluded from a meeting of priests of the diocese, and decided to go to England. After graduating from Cambridge, he went to Liberia, an African country founded under American auspices for the repatriation of freed slaves. Crummell hoped to see established in Liberia a black Christian republic, combining the best of European and African culture, and led by a Western-educated black bishop. He visited the United States and urged blacks to join him in Liberia and swell the ranks of the church there. His work in Liberia ran into opposition and indifference, and he returned to the United States, where he undertook the founding and strengthening of urban black congregations that would provide worship, education, and social services for their communities. When some bishops proposed a separate missionary district for black parishes, he organized a group, now known as the Union of Black Episcopalians, to fight the proposal.

by James Kiefer