

St Francis Episcopal Church San Jose, CA  
Morning Prayer, Thursday, October 14, 2021  
Commemoration of Joseph Schereschewsky  
Scholar, Translator, Bishop, 1906  
& Channing Moore Williams  
Missionary to China, 1910

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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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Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image. We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you. We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations:

*"God speaks: the heavens are made;*

*God breathes: the stars shine.*

*God bottles the waters of the sea  
and stores them in the deep*

*All earth, be astounded,  
stand in awe of God."*

Keep us faithful to this gathering in faith and "bless this vine your right hand has planted." Now and forever, Amen.

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.**

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 86

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 *The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.*

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you.

4 *Happy are the people whose strength is in you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 *They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.*

**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 Second Letter to the Corinthians*

*<sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

*13 But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.*

*16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God**

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, O heavens and all waters above the heavens.**

**Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, all winds and fire and heat. Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes of snow**

**Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark.**

**Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him**

for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

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

*Song of the Three Young Men*

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

*44 Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah\* is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses\* of these things.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy who has made all things by your word, and by your wisdom has formed humankind to have dominion over the creatures you have made, and rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul, give me the wisdom that sits by your throne, and do not reject me from among your servants.**

**With you is wisdom, she who knows your works and was present when you made the world;**

**She understands what is pleasing in your sight and what is right according to your commandments.**

**Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of your glory send her, that she may labour at my side, and that I may learn what is pleasing to you.**

**For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.  
Then my works will be acceptable, and I shall judge your people justly, and shall be worthy of the throne of my father.  
For who can learn the counsel of God?  
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?  
For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail; for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful mind.  
We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens?  
Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?  
And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you, and were saved by wisdom.'**

*from The Book of Wisdom, Ch9 NRSV*

**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.**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
*Govern and uphold them, now and always.*  
Day by day we bless you;  
*We praise your Name for ever.*  
Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
*Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.*  
Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
*For we put our trust in you.*  
In you, Lord, is our hope;  
*And we shall never hope in vain.*

O God, who in your providence called Joseph Schereschewsky and Channing Moore Williams to the ministry of this church and gave them the gifts and the perseverance to translate the Holy Scriptures: Inspire us, by their example and prayers, to commit our talents to your service, confident that you uphold those whom you call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us pray to God, that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth.  
We pray for your world,  
that we may share and conserve its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation  
and in harmony with one another.  
Father, Lord of creation,  
*in your mercy, hear us.*

You have given the human race a rich land,  
a land of streams and springs,  
wheat and barley,  
vines and oil and honey.

We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.  
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.  
Father, Lord of creation,  
*in your mercy, hear us.*

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,  
loving our neighbors before ourselves.  
Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is  
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be  
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.  
Thank you for those, living and departed,  
who have shown a true respect for your creation ...  
Help us to follow in their footsteps,  
until, with them, we see you face to face,  
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*<sup>1</sup>

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world,  
that their cries for daily bread may inspire  
works of compassion and mercy  
among those to whom much has been given.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the farmers  
with limited or marginal land throughout the world,  
for those who lack access to water and other resources,  
and for the light of research and support services  
to shine in the lives of all God's people.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities  
that scar God's creation,  
particularly the barriers to freedom

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<sup>1</sup> from **New Patterns for Worship**, copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002. From the Church of England's [Common Worship](#) website. Posted on the [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#) website. Visit that site for other good Earth Day worship resources.

faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender;  
that all who have been formed in God's image  
might have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the health of women, children,  
and families around the world,  
especially for an end to maternal and child mortality,  
that in building healthy families,  
all God's people may be empowered  
to strengthen their communities  
and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease throughout the world,  
particularly those exacerbated by lack of nutritious food and outright hunger;  
that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations,  
and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation,  
for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people,  
and for communities and nations to find sustenance  
in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all nations and people  
who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity,  
that their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted,  
and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world  
may flourish and grow.  
*Lord, hear our prayer<sup>2</sup>.*

Go out from here as workers in God's upside-down kingdom, where the last are  
first and the first are last, where needs are met in miraculous ways, and there is  
grace enough for all!

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<sup>2</sup> posted on the **National Catholic Rural Life Conference** website.  
<http://www.ncrlc.com/page.aspx?ID=133>

And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you and sustain us in the coming days. **Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

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# **SAMUEL ISAAC JOSEPH SCHERESCHEWSKY**

**SCHOLAR, TRANSLATOR, BISHOP (14 OCT 1906)**

Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky was born in Lithuania in 1831, went to Germany to study for the rabbinate, there became a Christian, emigrated to America, trained for the priesthood, and in 1859 was sent by the Episcopal Church to China, where he devoted himself from 1862 to 1875 to translating the Bible into Mandarin Chinese. In 1877 he was elected Bishop of Shanghai, where he founded St. John's University, and began his translation of the Bible into Wenli (the classical Chinese style of writing). He developed Parkinson's disease, was largely paralyzed, resigned his position as Bishop of Shanghai, and spent the rest of his life completing his Wenli Bible, the last 2000 pages of which he typed with the one finger that he could still move.



Four years before his death in 1906, he said: "I have sat in this chair for over twenty years. It seemed very hard at first. But God knew best. He kept me for the work for which I am best fitted."

*by James Kiefer*

# **CHANNING MOORE WILLIAMS**

**MISSIONARY TO ASIA (2 DEC. 1910)**

Williams was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1829, and ordained deacon in 1855. The Episcopal Church sent him to China, where he was ordained priest in 1857. In 1859 he was sent to Nagasaki, Japan, and in 1866 was consecrated Bishop of China and Japan. In 1868 Japan was opened to far greater contact with the West than



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<sup>3</sup> based on Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 20:1-16  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/benediction-upside-down-kingdom.html>



before, and he determined that he could achieve best results by concentrating his efforts on Japan. In 1874 (or is that 1877?) a new bishop (Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewski, see above) was consecrated for China, and Williams went to Tokyo (then called Edo or Yedo), where he founded what is now St Paul's University. In 1878 he helped unite several mission efforts in the formation of the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*, the Holy Catholic Church in Japan. In 1889 his health began to fail, and he asked to be relieved. In 1893 a successor was appointed, and Williams stayed on, living in Kyoto and helping to open new mission stations. He returned to America in 1908 and died 2 December 1910.

<http://satucket.com/lectionary/Schereschewski-Williams.htm>