

# Service of Racial Reconciliation



GUEST PREACHER

**The Rev.  
Lester  
Mackenzie**

Friday, November 6

7:00 PM via Zoom

All are welcome.

Learn more at  
[episcopalpartnership.org](http://episcopalpartnership.org).

**WNY&NWPA**  
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*Prelude*     *An Wasserflussen Babylon*, Johann Sebastian Bach  
Arranged by Abigail Rockwood of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo. Ellen Barnum, bassoon and Abigail Rockwood, piano

*Welcome and Invitation*  
The Rev. Matthew Lincoln

*Public Apology for the Sin of Racism*  
The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

*Officiant*     Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People*         Let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*         And also with you.  
*Officiant*     Let us pray.

*Officiant*

O God of light and love, you illumined your Church through the witness of your servant William Temple: Inspire us, we pray, by his teaching and example, that we may rejoice with courage, confidence, and faith in the Word made flesh, and may be led to establish that city which has justice for its foundation and love for its law; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People*      Amen.

*Hymn*      *Come by Here, my Lord*

© Morningstar, licensed through OneLicense.net A-723784 | Singers: Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton and Tyler Mecklenburg, under the direction of Paul Cena, accompanied by Krista Seddon, piano and Harry Fackelman, saxophone. All of Trinity Episcopal Church, Buffalo.

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

*People*      The Word of the Lord  
                 Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 29*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

*Chant with Djembe Drum*  
The Rev. Lester Mackenzie

*John 3:1-17*

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's

womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

*People*           The Word of the Lord  
                          Thanks be to God.

*Sermon*  
The Rev. Lester Mackenzie

*Leader*           Beloved in Christ: God commands us, through Jesus Christ, to love one another. Our baptismal vows teach us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor these vows by turning to God and to each other and responding: Hear us and have mercy on us.

*Leader*           We pray for the Spirit to raise up among us wise and just leaders, peacemakers and people with courage; those who will guide us and walk alongside us as we perform the difficult work of racial reconciliation. Give us the strength to run the race with faith, and never grow tired of the task God has set before us.

*Leader*           God of justice and inspiration.  
*People*           Hear us and have mercy on us.

*Leader*           We pray that all people may be reconciled to God, and to one another, as we strive to heal and transform the injustices and broken

areas within ourselves, our communities, our institutions and our society as a whole. We welcome a chance to get into “Good Trouble” for the sake of the Gospel, as we seek out new opportunities to promote change, especially wherever change has been long overdue.

*Leader* God of restoration and equality.  
*People* Hear us and have mercy on us.

*Leader* God, we ask that our elected officials commit themselves to the work of eliminating systems that perpetuate, and enforce racial practices, any and all “isms,” and forms of discrimination. Help us put an end to laws within our government, our institutions, our shared culture, and within our churches, that support the caste system which grieves the heart of God.

*Leader* God of our weary years, and our silent tears.  
*People* Hear us and have mercy on us.

*Leader* We pray for all those who are ill, and those who have died, and now rest in the peace of Christ. God, grant healing and wholeness to the living, and perpetual light to those who dwell with you in heaven.

*Leader* God of our strength and our salvation.  
*People* Hear us and have mercy on us.

*Leader* In the communion saints: with John Lewis, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and all those who have lived and died in the pursuit of blessed liberty. Let us commend ourselves, one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*People* To you, O Lord our God.

*Officiant* Holy God, hear our prayers. Breathe your life-giving Spirit over us and all the earth, so that barriers will crumble and our divisions cease. Make us more fully co-healers of our broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* Amen.

## *Confession*

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgments of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors while benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression. Forgive us, Holy God. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, now and for ever.

*People*      Amen.

*Bishop*      May Almighty God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forgive you all your sins, and bring you healing and wholeness.

*People*      Amen.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Music by Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964) | © G. Schirmer, Inc., licensed through OneLicense.net A-723784 | The Choir of Men and Girls at the Washington National Cathedral

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.

*Officiant*    Let us pray

Eternal God, giver of life: You continually show us what it truly means to be sisters and brothers, reconciled to one another. Now lift us beyond the burdens of pain and guilt as we now turn from the wrong-doings of our past. Give us the

vision of a new creation as we commit to dismantling racism in our personal and public life. Send us forth into the world as repairers of the breach, and strengthen us to act for justice and human dignity, as we strive for the liberation of all your people; through Christ our Lord.

*People* Amen.

*Bishop* May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you this night and for evermore.

*People* Amen.

*Hymn* *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Author, James Weldon Johnson | Lisa Layman and Brent Weber (singers) and Sharon Downey (direction and accompaniment) of the Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie.

*Dismissal*

*Deacon* Alleluia. Alleluia. This Service has now ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Participants:**

#### **Worship Leaders:**

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

The Rev. Matthew Lincoln

The Rev. Helen Harper

The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson

**Preacher:** The Rev. Lester Mackenzie

#### **Readers:**

Wayne A. Blassingame

Susan Woods

Denise Merriweather

#### **Litanists:**

Paul Lambert

The Rev. Jason Shank

The Ven. Gail G. Winslow

Lisa Boeving-Learned

The Rev. Kim Rossi

Sara Nesbitt

## **The Voice of the People:**

Gabrie'l Atchison

### **Music:**

*With thanks to the choirs and musicians of:*

St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo and Canon Dr. Abigail Rockwood

The Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie and Canon Sharon Downey

Trinity, Buffalo and Paul Cena

### **About the Rev. Lester Mackenzie**

The Rev. Lester Mackenzie, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Laguna Beach California, is chaplain to the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church. An active leader in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Mackenzie is a native of South Africa and a third-generation priest. He writes that he was "nurtured in the womb of freedom, the South African Anglican Church" during apartheid in Johannesburg and Cape Town. As a preacher, singer and percussionist, Mackenzie uses his South African story and African musical influences to encourage self-expression and reconciliation. He lives near the Pacific Ocean with his wife, Angela Mackenzie, a fourth-generation southern Californian, and their three children.