

Saturday Evening Vespers

August 29, 2020, 6:00 PM

Emsworth UP Church Lawn

Call to Worship

Creator of the world, eternal God,

We have come from many places for a little while

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,

We have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.

Spirit of unity, go-between God,

We have come on journeys of our own, to a place where journeys meet.

So here, in your shelter, let us take time together. For when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate.

In your name, Three-in-One God, pattern of community, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Psalm 26:1–8 (ESV) — **1** Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. **2** Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. **3** For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. **4** I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. **5** I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. **6** I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, **7** proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds. **8** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

Romans 12:9–21 (ESV) — **9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” **20** To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Meditation on the Word

Sign of Welcome: Unveiling Sacred Art

Closing Response & Blessing

The blessing of the Trinity. . .

The blessing of God

Who is in this place and every place

The blessing of Jesus

Who is among us, often unrecognized;

The blessing of the Holy Spirit

Encouraging us to welcome, and to feel at home;

. . . Be with us all

As we depart and continue lives in which we explore new ways of sharing space and time together, new ways to fellowship, may our life in community reflect the dance of the Trinity, by which the world is blessed.

Amen.