



ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE FEAST OF THE REV. SAM SHOEMAKER
Celebrating his Work, Life, and Witness
January 31, 2021
7:30 p.m.

Sam Shoemaker
Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Step Movement

Were it not for Sam Shoemaker Alcoholics Anonymous nor the wider 12-Step movement would likely exist. His influence on Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and the wider 12-Step movement is incalculable.

AA arose from gatherings of the Oxford Group movement in both Akron, Ohio, and at Calvary Episcopal in New York City, while Shoemaker was the rector of that church.

Called to Calvary Episcopal in 1925, Shoemaker applied methods he learned from the Oxford Group to revive a fading parish and saw participation and membership increase. He also led the parish to renovate its dilapidated Calvary Mission to minister to the unemployed and street people of lower Manhattan.

Through that Mission, many of the original AAers, such as Bill Wilson, came to the Oxford Group meetings at Calvary parish. With Shoemaker's help and encouragement, a few men started an Oxford Group meeting for alcoholics. That meeting, called the "Alcoholic Squad", evolved in 1935 into AA.

Nurturing and supporting AA in its infancy, Shoemaker and his ideas became the source and inspiration for AA's Twelve Steps.

Bill Wilson, who helped start AA in New York, honored Shoemaker as AA's cofounder. He attributed to Shoemaker "most of the principles" and AA's "spiritual keys" such as "self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, restitution for harm done and working with others" as well as "meditation and prayer".

Shoemaker remained at Calvary parish until 1951, when he left for Calvary parish in Pittsburg. There he continued his work, helping found the Pittsburg Experiment, which still exists. He died in 1963.

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Miles Brandon

Thus says, the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite.

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

We give thanks to the Father, who has made us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

(The other priests and the readers take their seats.)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Rev. Dr. Carol Petty

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

**We have harmed and resented others, failing to treat them as we wish to be
treated**

and failing to forgive as we wish to be forgiven.

Remove from us the shortcomings

which stand in the way of our usefulness to you and others.

Give us courage to make direct amends for the harms we have done;

ever keep us in conscious contact with you; and

**grant us the strength as we go from here to know and do your will
through Jesus Christ our Lord and brother. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

INVITATORY

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son . . . Alleluia.

HYMN: For All the Saints

Troyta's Chant

COLLECT

The Rev. Miles Brandon

Holy God, we thank you for the vision of Sam Shoemaker, priest and co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous; and we pray that we may follow his example to help others find salvation through knowledge and love of Jesus Christ our Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RESPONSE: Psalm 130

Mark Wischkaemper

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son . . . Alleluia.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING:

Excerpt from *The Genius of Fellowship* by Sam Shoemaker

Ellen Jockusch

SECOND READING: Isaiah 51:17-52:1a

Jim Norman

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Surely It is God Who Saves Me

Nick Litterski and Stacy Morales

THIRD READING: I Corinthians 5:6-8

Pam O'Conner

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Mark Wischkaemper

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:40-44

The Rev. Dr. Ben Nelson

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Ben Nelson

THE MAGNIFICAT

My Soul Proclaims the Lord, My God

Nick Litterski and Stacy Morales

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Rev. Carol Petty

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We thank you Lord —

For loving the world so much that you gave us your son

For his presence in our weakness and suffering

For the gift of recovery

Through which we are renewed one day at a time.

For all who help and heal, for our sponsors and friends in recovery

For the continued unity of our groups and fellowships

For all who have shown us the way of recovery

For all who have led us from the bondage of addiction to new life.

For those like Bill Wilson, Lois Wilson, Dr. Bob Smith, Ann Smith, Ebby Thatcher, Sister Ignatia, and Fr. Fred Dowling;

For the life and witness of Sam Shoemaker.

For saints, martyrs and faithful in every place and time

Who have followed Jesus and who have witnessed to his power.

We pray—

For the coming of your Kingdom

For the doing of your will in our lives and the lives of others.

For the renewal of the world and the healing of its wounds

For the church, its leaders and for each gathering of your faithful people.

For the lonely, forgotten and homeless, for the sick and those who sorrow;
For families suffering separation and conflict, for children and other victims of violence.

For the lifting of our resentments and for reconciliation in our relationships
For those to whom we owe amends.

For those from whom we are estranged
And for those who are estranged from us.

For the addict and the addict's family both here and elsewhere who still suffer;
For ourselves that we may be found worthy.

COLLECT

The Rev. Carol Petty

Lord Christ, your saints, like Sam Shoemaker, have been the lights of the world in every generation: grant that we who follow in their footsteps may be made worthy to enter with them into that heavenly country where you live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

The Rev. Carol Petty

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of our truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Carol Petty

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer O Lord

Mark Wischkaemper

DISMISSAL

The Rev. Miles Brandon

O Blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: look with compassion on all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of recovery; and those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: Prayer of St. Francis by Sebastian Temple Nick Litterski and Stacy Morales

Those sponsoring this service of celebration:

Members of St. Julian of Norwich, Episcopal Church, Round Rock, Texas:

www.stjuliansaustin.org

Members of the Fellowship, St. David's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas:

theabbey.us/category/groups

Priests: The Rev. Miles Brandon, The Rev. Dr. Carol Petty

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Ben Nelson

Musicians: Mark Wischkaemper, Nick Litterski, Stacy Morales

Worship Notes

We at times have relied on and adapted portions of this service of worship from the following sources to whom we offer many thanks:

For use of the hymn "Prayer of Saint Francis" by Sebastian Temple from *Songs of Praise Combined Edition* (Servant Music, Ann Arbor, MI)

For the use of the hymn "My Soul Proclaims the Lord, My God" by Anne Carter, copyrighted @1988 by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Ending "gloria patria" added by Mason Terry (2020)

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Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.

