

St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Morning Prayer: Rite Two 9:30^{AM}

Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, in Christ. (BCP 855)

The Red Vineyard—Vincent Van Gogh

This morning we celebrate with an abridged service of Morning Prayer. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold> are spoken by the congregation**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: 304

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Morris-Buchanan

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: 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.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.
People: **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.

PSALM 22: 24-30

24 For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither turns away from them; *
when they cry to the Lord, they are heard.

25 My praise is of God in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

28 For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, *
who rules over the nations.

29 To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before God.

30 My soul shall live for God;
my descendants shall serve God; *
they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

ANTIPHON

Officiant: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed:
People: **Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

CANTICLE: *Gloria in excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 8: 26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE: CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.
Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People: **Thanks be to God**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the

branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Deacon: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

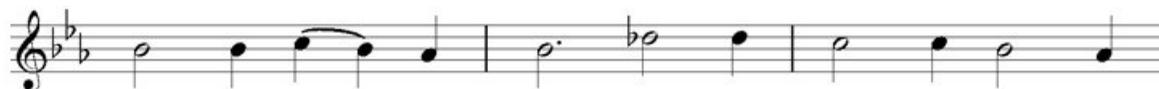
THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn :487 *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Light*

Vaughn Williams



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

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

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES: SET A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts of God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19.

We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this skeptical world

We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith.

We pray for our Nation may we seek justice and work to build harmony.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Bob Gowen, Yumi, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Arlene Goldstein, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Hudson Beauregard; Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert, Martha Thornley, Warren Blyden and Shlomo Teladano**

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato and Bill & Dorothy D'Amato.**

We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Peter, Hannelore, and Jeff.**

We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School**, and the American **Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.**

We pray for those who have died, in the violence enslaving the world and the over 560,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

Officiant: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked for faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. .

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 344

Lord dismiss us with thy blessing

Sicilian Mariners

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the
joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,
 O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness,
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Deacon:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord!

People:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

STEWARDSHIP

Sometimes, trying to decide what we will give back to God through our pledge to St. John's feels a lot like we are the vine being pruned in this morning's Gospel. It is difficult when we perceive of our pledge as trying to find extra funds and time to donate to the church. But, when we look at the concept of pruning, so that we might enjoy stronger. More abundant growth, the conversation in our head changes.

What are the activities or expenditures you are making that need to be pruned back? And what growth might we experience if those cuttings are composted in God's Garden?

MAY 9—ROGATION SUNDAY

We blessed our Community Garden yesterday, but the Church feast to bless gardens is actually on the 9th, so bring a representative plant or seedling and MM+ will bless your garden too. If you are a bike rider, - bring your bike! We will have the bicycle blessing too—Happy Mother's Day and Happy Spring!

ANNUAL BRENDA LAWLOR MIDNIGHT RUN NEW SOCKS AND UNDIES DRIVE:

Please bring **NEW** socks, T-shirts & underwear to St. John's by May 15th. Size large, but a few XL and M would be appreciated as well.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—The Thrift Store is asking those previous and interested volunteers to contact Linda or Joan with their availability. We are currently open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. We need help as follows: 1) Outside of the store to assist with the inflow of customers 2) Inside the stores to assist with customers. The Thrift Store operates within NYS guidelines for PPE precautions. Please email Linda Spione at spionelinda@gmail.com or Joan Scire at joanscire@aol.com with your availability.

TUESDAY NOON ZOOM PRAYERS: Join us via ZOOM for a brief moment of calm in your all to hectic day.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: at 11am; ZOOM link sent out in This Week @ St. John's. We are working our way through Paul's Letter to the Romans. You are welcome to join us.

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

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