



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

April 19, 2020 - Second Sunday of Easter

5:30 pm - Online Worship

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

Welcome to our online service! During the prelude, we invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. We are glad you are here!

Prelude

Silence

Opening Reading: St. Thomas the Apostle
"We do not know...how can we know the way?"
Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.
O Doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things
We can not love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.
Because He loved your awkward counter-point
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.
O place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

Malcolm Guite

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn 686: "Come thou font of every blessing"

Nettleton

1 Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! O fix me on it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

2 Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help, I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee;
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Call to Worship

Adapted from Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

One: In this community, we recognize the wilderness in the world.

All: In this community, we trust that God is near.

One: In this community, we hold on to hope.

All: In this community, we hold on to our commitment to one another.

One: In this community, we sing, "Alleluia!"

All: In this community, we trust that love is stronger than fear.

One: So in this community, we celebrate.

All: In this community, we sing.

One: In this community, we trust that nothing can separate us from God's love.

All: Let us worship Holy God!

The Reading

John 20:19 - 31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silence is observed after the reading

Meditation

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.

Silence is observed after the meditation

Music for Meditation

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Officiant: Almighty God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church, the world, and for all who serve you in them.

Leader: Loving God, enliven the Church for its mission.

People: That we may be salt to the earth and light to the world.

Leader: Breathe fresh life into your people.

People: Give us power to reveal the risen Christ in word and action.

Leader: God of Truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People: That all may act with integrity and courage.

Leader: Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours.

People: May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Leader: Give comfort to those who are ill, those who have died, those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, and those who are facing uncertainty.

People: Grant us grace and courage to care for one another in your name.

Leader: God our Sanctuary,
gather us when separated into your presence.

God our Physician,
heal those who have contracted the virus.

God our Homeland,
mother all who are quarantined.

God our Guardian,
protect physicians and nurses.

God our Hope,
assist researchers searching for a vaccine.

God our Mighty Fortress,
preserve our societies from devastation.

God our Governor,
guide the leaders of nations toward wise policies.

God of Everlasting Arms,
in you we live and move and have our being.

God our Creator,
make once again a world of sabbath rest.

God our Savior,
redeem the suffering world by your cross.

God our Light,
shine your radiant peace into our darkness.

O God, Holy and Undivided Trinity,
bless and preserve us. Amen.

Officiant: Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Additional Prayers of Intercession + Thanksgiving + Healing

During the instrumental music and hymn, and at any time hereafter, you are welcome to share a prayer request by submitting via the comment or chat function.

Music for Meditation

Hymn: "Bless the Lord my soul"

Taize

Bless the Lord, my soul. And bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul. Who leads me into light.

Please rise or rise in spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray:

All: Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Grace (*please stand*)

See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another. Follow the example of good men and women of old and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come.

In the name of God: Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer + Love-Maker. **Amen.**

The Peace

Christ the Good Shepherd is risen from the dead and binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

All now exchange a sign of peace.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We invite you to share your gifts in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation, especially during this time when we cannot receive those offerings in person. Make your offering online (<http://bit.ly/stggive>) or by mail to the church.

Announcements

For the latest updates and messages of encouragement, check our website (StGeorgesEpiscopal.net) and subscribe to our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/stggenews>)

Officiant: Let us now join in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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 forever. Amen.

Collect for Easter

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. **Amen.**

Taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa'
(adapted)

1 Now the day is over,
night is drawing nigh,
shadows of the evening
steal across the sky.

2 Jesus, give the weary
calm and sweet repose;
with Thy tenderest blessing
may mine eyelids close.

3 Grant to little children
visions bright of thee;
guard the sailors tossing
on the deep, blue sea.

4 Comfort every sufferer,
watching late in pain;
those who plan some evil
from their sin restrain.

5 Through the long night watches
may thine angels spread
their white wings above me,
watching round my bed.

6 When the morning wakens,
then may I arise
pure, and fresh, and sinless
in thy holy eyes.

The Dismissal

Officiant: The Lord has made a promise to love you faithfully forever. Go out with joy and be led forth with Peace. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Acknowledgments

The Opening Prayer, "St. Thomas the Apostle" by Malcolm Guite, from *Sounding the Seasons*; Call to Worship adapted from Rev. Sarah Are's "Words of Worship", from *A Sanctified Art*; Prayers of the People - adapted, from Gail Ramshaw; The Prayer for the Evening and the Lord's Prayer from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper Collins, 1977. Prayers and blessings adapted from the following sources: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA; The Northumbria Community; the Iona Community.

In this time of uncertainty and dynamic change, please know that although we cannot physically gather, God is ever-present. We are here too. If you would like someone to chat and pray with you, please submit a request online (bit.ly/stgprayer) and if it is an emergency (for e.g. sudden illness, death), please contact the pastoral emergency phone (540.361.8573) where you will reach a clergy person on call. Know that we are holding you in our prayers and look forward to a time when we will be able to gather again. God's peace be with you.

St. George's Episcopal Church

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