



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

April 26, 2020 - Third 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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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: "On Belief in the Physical Resurrection of Jesus"

Denise Levertov

It is for all 'literalists of the imagination,'
poets or not, that miracle is possible and essential.
Are some intricate minds nourished on concept,
as epiphytes flourish high in the canopy?
Can they subsist on the light, on the half metaphor that's not
grounded in dust, grit, heavy carnal clay?
Do signs contain and utter, for them all the reality that they need?
Resurrection for them, an internal power, but not a matter of flesh?
For the others, of whom I am one, miracles (ultimate need, bread of life),
are miracles just because people so attuned to the humdrum laws:
gravity, mortality--can't open to symbols power unless convinced of its ground,
its roots in bone and blood. We must feel the pulse in the wound to believe
that 'with God all things are possible,'
taste bread at Emmaus that warm hands broke and blessed.

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn 204: "Now the green blade riseth"

Noel nouvelet

1 Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
lain in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

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

Luke 24:13 - 35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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. Areeta D. Bridgemohan

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: "O Lord, hear my prayer"

Taize

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
o Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

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: O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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)*

Hymn 24: "The day thou gavest"

St. Clement

1 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2 We thank thee that thy church unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

3 As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4 So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away:
thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

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, "On Belief in the Physical Resurrection of Jesus" by Denise Levertov, from *The Collected Poems of Denise Levertov*; 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

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540.373.4133 (telephone)
540.374.0923 (fax)
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

For Pastoral Emergencies: 540.361.8573
general inquiries:
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net
