



**St. George's**  
Episcopal  
Church

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# Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

**May 3, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**5:30 pm - Online Worship**

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

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# Fourth Sunday of Easter

## May 3, 2020

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**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: "The 23rd Psalm"**

Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows  
beside the still waters she will lead.  
She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs,  
She leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs.  
Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,  
there is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.  
She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes,  
She anoints my head with oil and my cup overflows.  
Surely, goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will live in her house for ever and ever.

### **Opening Acclamation**

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

**All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

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Hymn 304: "I come with joy to meet my Lord"

*Land of Rest*

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall,  
his life laid down for me.

2. I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
we see and praise him here.

5. Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways  
and as his people in the world,  
we'll live and speak his praise.

#### 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!**

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## The Reading

John 10:1 - 10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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. David P. Casey, O.P.

*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.**

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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: "Come and fill"**

Taize

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**You alone O Lord are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!**

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*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](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net)) and subscribe to our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/stgenews>)*

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.**

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### **Collect for Easter**

Officiant: O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, 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)*

### **Blessing offered by the priest**

The God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do God’s will, and the blessing of God almighty, the holy and undivided Trinity, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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Hymn 664: "My Shepherd will supply my need"

*Resignation*

**1 My Shepherd will supply my need:  
Jehovah is His Name;  
in pastures fresh he makes me feed,  
beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back  
when I forsake his ways,  
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,  
in paths of truth and grace.**

**2 When I walk through the shades of death,  
thy presence is my stay;  
one word of thy supporting breath  
drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,  
doth still my table spread;  
my cup with blessings overflows,  
thy oil anoints my head.**

**3 The sure provisions of my God  
attend me all my days;  
O may thy house be mine abode,  
and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
while others go and come;  
no more a stranger or a guest,  
but like a child at home.**

### **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**

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## **Acknowledgments**

The Opening Prayer, "The 23rd Psalm" by Bobby McFerrin; 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](http://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.*

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## **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](http://stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

For Pastoral Emergencies: 540.361.8573  
general inquiries:  
[office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

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