



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

May 10, 2020 - Fifth 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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: "Paraphrase of I Peter 2:1 - 3"

Eugene Peterson

So clean house!

Make a clean sweep

of malice and pretense,

envy and hurtful talk.

You've had a taste of God.

Now, like infants at the breast,

drink deep of God's pure kindness.

Then you'll grow up

mature and whole in God.

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn 487: "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life"

The Call

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath;

such a truth as ends all strife;

such a life as killeth death.

2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;

such a strength as makes his guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a joy as none can move;

such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

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 14:1 - 14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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 life.

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/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.

Collect for Easter

Officiant: 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.**

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)*

Prayer for Mothers *offered by the priest*

Gracious God who nurtures and protects us with a mother’s care, you created us in your image and gave us power to bring life into the world. We ask your blessing upon the divinely inspired labor and gifts of mothers everywhere, mothers in body and mothers in spirit. We lift up to you those expecting new life and those whose expectations have been disappointed. We offer you the joys as well as the sorrows shared between mothers and children. Make us thankful for our life and those who have given it to us that we may continue to pray with all the holy mothers and fathers in the communion of saints, praising you in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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.**

Hymn 51: "We the Lord's people"

Decatur Place

**1 We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting,
praise him who called us
out of sin and darkness
into his own light, that he might anoint
us a royal priesthood.**

**2 This is the Lord's house, home of all his people,
school for the faithful,
refuge for the sinner,
rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary;
all find a welcome.**

**3 This is the Lord's day, day of God's own making,
day of creation, day of resurrection,
day of the Spirit,
sign of heaven's banquet,
day for rejoicing.**

**4 In the Lord's service bread and wine are offered,
that Christ may take them,
bless them, break, and give them
to all his people, his own life imparting,
food everlasting.**

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, "Paraphrase of I Peter 2:1 - 3" by Eugene Peterson, from *The Message*; 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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