



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday

5:30 pm - Online Worship

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

Easter Sunday

April 12, 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

One minute of silence follows the prelude.

Opening Reading: Opening Prayer

John Philip Newell

As it was in the stillness of the morning
so may it be in the silence of the night,
As it was in the hidden vitality of the womb
so may it be at my birth into eternity,
As it was in the beginning, O God,
so in the end may your gift be born
so in the end may your gift of life be born.

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn 178: "Alleluia, alleluia"

Alleluia No. 1

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation. Refrain.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.

Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain.

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever. Refrain.

God has proclaimed the just reward:

Life for all men, alleluia! Refrain.

Come, let us praise the living God,

Joyfully sing to our Saviour. Refrain.

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 20:1 - 18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Two minutes of silence will follow.

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

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

Leader 2: Breathe fresh life into your people.

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

Leader 1: 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 2: 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 1: 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 2: 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.

Leader 1: 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: "Laudate omnes gentes"

Taize

Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum.

Translation: Sing praises, all you peoples. Sing praises to the Lord.

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, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

2. The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shout of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

3. The three sad days are quickly sped,
he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

4. He closed the yawning gates of hell,
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell!
Alleluia!

5. Lord! by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee.
Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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, "Opening Prayer" by John Philip Newell, from *Celtic Benediction*; 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
