



**St. George's**  
Episcopal  
Church

---

# Celtic Evensong

## St. George's

## Episcopal Church

**July 5, 2020 -**

**The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

**5:30 pm - Online Worship**

---

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

---

---

# The Fifth Sunday

## After Pentecost

### July 5, 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!**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Prelude**

*Silence*

#### **Opening Reading:**

Kaitlin Curtice

Jesus,  
When we return to our places,  
to our routines and stresses  
and everyday occurrences,  
help us to stay tethered.

Give us purpose, even through  
the darkness of the long night.  
Give us peace,  
give us hope,  
that everything stays  
illuminated because  
You are fully life and fully light.  
Amen.

#### **Prayer for the Evening**

Officiant: In Luke's gospel, Jesus called together the disciples and a great multitude to a level place. There he touched, healed, and taught. There he spoke, "Blessed are..." There he named the blessed—the saints of the faith.

**All: O God, call us together as you did those so long ago to discover your blessed people. This evening, Christ gather us.**

Officiant: Let us remember, confess, celebrate, and embody the blessed saints of God. Christ, come among us.

---

---

Hymn 645 "The King of love my shepherd is"

*St. Columba*

1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine for ever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

### **The Reading**

Matthew 11:16 - 19, 25 - 30

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have

---

---

revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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*

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others** *Please stand.*

Leader 1: God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us.

Leader 2: We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. We pray especially for those affected by COVID-19. Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

Leader 1: We remember those who have died and those who mourn: (*particular intercessions/thanksgiving may be offered*) We commend those who have died into your loving embrace, and pray for your comfort and healing presence for those who mourn.

Leader 2: We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of this land. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations.

Leader 1: We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and Christ's kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

---

---

Today we pray especially for all who graduate from high school. We pray that although this transition is taking place in the uniquely challenging circumstances of a pandemic, that you would remind our seniors of your love for them and the resilience that you've nurtured within them. You have blessed them with wisdom, friendship and skills. You continue to challenge them to make this world a better place. We pray that they may feel the prayers and support of this faith community as they step into this new season of their lives. We lift up to you today high school seniors in our community, including Avery, Bella, Carter, Kayla, Luke, and Sarah. May they be a blessing to the world as they are to us.

Leader 2: 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. **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!**

*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*)

Officiant: Now my friends, all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable; with these let us fill our hearts, and the God of heaven: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier will be with us always. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Officiant: 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.**

### **Collect for the Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

**BCP 230**

Officiant: O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Collect For Social Justice**

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

---

---

## **Collect for Independence Day**

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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.

**Blessing offered by clergy**

May you be held together by the love of God, clothed with the nature of Jesus our Companion, reinforced by the strength of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God, the one Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you now and always. **Amen.**

**The Dismissal offered by clergy**

Go into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thank you for joining us.

**Postlude**

---

---

## Acknowledgments

The Opening Prayer, by Kaitlin Curtice; A Prayer for the Evening by Sidney D. Fowler in *The Blessed Ones: A Celebration for All Saints Day*, on the website of the United Church of Christ; Prayers and Blessings adapted from the following sources: A New Zealand Prayer Book, Harper Collins, 1977; New Hampshire Episcopal Church; 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.*

---

## 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)

---