



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

May 17, 2020 - Sixth 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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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: "In the beginning"

Robert Lax

In the beginning (in the beginning of time to say the least) there were the compasses: whirling in void their feet traced out beginning and endings, beginning and end in a single line. Wisdom danced also in circles, for these were her kingdom: the sun spun, worlds whirled, the seasons came round, and all things went their rounds: but in the beginning, beginning and end were in one.

And in the beginning was love. Love made a sphere: all things grew within it; the sphere then encompassed beginnings and endings, beginning and end. Love had a compass whose whirling dance traced out a sphere of love in the void: in the center thereof rose a fountain.

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn 31: "Most holy God, the Lord of heaven"

Dunedin

1. Most Holy God, the Lord of heaven,
who in the high arched sky
has placed the sun that flames up from the east
and brings the splendors of the dawn:

2. for you the dazzling star shines forth
which in its gleaming path declares
the wonders of your glorious power,
and beckons us to worship you.

3. The day departs, the evening stars
serenely light the darkening sky;
the moon with cool reflected glow
will bring the silences of night.

4. You, Holy One, Creator, Lord,
you in the primal world once set
the boundaries of the day and night
and ordered seasons in their round.

5 Like sun and day, shine in our hearts;
like moon and night, give loving peace.
Free us from bonds of blinding sin
and guide us on our path to you.

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 14:15 - 21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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: "Nothing can trouble"

Taize

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.**

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: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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)*

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 593: "Lord, make us servants of your peace"

Dickinson College

**1 Lord, make us servants of your peace:
Where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive;
Where there is strife, may we make one.**

**2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light;
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**3 Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
To be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts,
But look for hearts to understand.**

**4 May we not look for love's return,
But seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive,
And in forgiving are forgiven.**

**5 Dying, we live, and are reborn
Through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
To wake at last in heaven's light.**

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, "In the beginning" by Robert Lax, from *Circus Days and Nights*, Overlook Press, 2000; 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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