



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Saturday
April 3, 2021

8 pm The Vigil of Easter

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

April 3, 2021

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.
- Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855

Welcome to St. George's!

Whether you are worshiping online or in person, we are glad you are here.

Connect with Us

During this time of staying apart, we are finding new ways to connect. If you'd like to find out more about St. George's, please fill out an online Newcomer Card on our website at: bit.ly/stgnewcomer.

2nd Sunday Newcomer Welcome:

Newcomers are invited to join us at 5 p.m. on Zoom on April 11, for a chance to meet parishioners, staff, and clergy, ask questions, and learn more about the parish. Contact [Jan Meredith](#) for more information.

To stay up-to-date on the latest news and events, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, The St. Georgian: bit.ly/stgenews.

Request Prayer

We share in each other's joys and concerns. Send us your prayer requests at: bit.ly/stgprayer.

Giving

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Your generous gifts help fund our ministries and serve the community. Thank you. You can make a one-time or recurring gift electronically or text to give (send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133). You can also mail a check to the church office. For assistance, contact Business Manager [Ben Hicks](#).

Easter Gratitude Offering

Thank you to everyone who made a generous offering in gratitude for blessings or in memory/honor of someone. You have blessed St. George's. We will publish the names on Easter and in the following week's newsletter.

Good Friday and Easter Giving

Through the years many Episcopalians traditionally donate the Good Friday Offering to the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East to express their support for their ministries in the birthplace of our faith. [Click here to share your gift.](#)

Our Easter Loose Offering will be split between SAWs Virginia and Micah Ecumenical Ministries Street Church. You can make an [online gift here](#) (select "Easter Offering" as the fund) or make your donation by cash or designated check (Easter outreach) at one of our in-person services.

Worship, Learn, Serve

**“Make me to know your ways,
O Lord; teach me your paths.”
Psalm 25:4**

Learning and Growing in Christ

No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here.

We offer a number of faith formation opportunities for all ages. You are invited to visit or join at any time.

Some of our regular offerings for growing in faith:

- Bible Study
- Education for Ministry (EFM)
- Parish Prayer Partners
- Introductory classes to the Episcopal Church and St. George's
- [Racial justice and reconciliation](#) book groups
- Spiritual Book Group
- Sunday adult forums

How are you called to serve? Serving builds our parish and local community as we give thanks to God and follow Christ's example.

A few examples of ways to serve (contact the [church office](#) for more information):

- Children and youth ministries: leading mission trips and Vacation Bible School; teaching Sunday school
 - Community service: The Table: sharing fresh produce in the community every week; Micah Ecumenical Ministries: dinners and hospitality with neighbors who are homeless
 - Leading worship: Worship leaders and server teams
 - Music ministries: Singing and instrumentalists
 - Pastoral care: Extending support and prayer to church members in need
 - Support ministries: Logistics as well as media and technical support for online services
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Weekly Worship

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Stay tuned for updates. As pandemic conditions improve, we are planning to gradually regather for in-person services, first outdoors and eventually indoors, with required face covering and social distancing. We are following the guidance of our Diocese. Through the end of May you can expect the following as a minimum (with more added as we are able).

Sundays:

9 am: Livestream service of the Word: our clergy, lay ministers, and musicians offer readings from scripture, a homily/sermon, hymns and instrumental music, and prayers for the community and the world. Live on YouTube and available afterwards for viewing.

10 am: Adult forum on Zoom: lay leaders, guest speakers and clergy offer discussions on various topics, including the Bible, spiritual authors, and issues in our world. Parish updates are sometimes held at this time also.

www.zoom.us/join or call 929.205.6099

Webinar ID: 392 738 239

Password: 107758

11 am: Zoom Coffee "half-hour" bring your own coffee and connect with other parishioners in an informal conversation facilitated by one of our lay leaders. (same login as formation)

5:30 pm: (3rd Sundays of the month) Celtic Evensong on YouTube Live.

8 pm: Sung Compline on Facebook Live via our [Compline Facebook page](#).

Wednesdays

12 pm: Noon Prayer on Facebook Live

Children Formation Videos:
<http://bit.ly/stgchildrenvideos>

For Youth Ministry offerings, please contact [Hecti Musa](#)

Children and Youth offerings are described more fully in the announcements section of the bulletin.

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 3, 2021

Holy Baptism + Holy Eucharist at 8 pm

from the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and *Enriching Our Worship*, supplemental liturgical materials approved by the Episcopal Church.

We invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer.

Greeting and Welcome

The congregation gathers on the church steps.

The Celebrant addresses the people and offers prayer.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The new fire is kindled. The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire.

The following is chanted by the cantor and choir.

Cantor: The light of Christ.

Choir: Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

The person appointed, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet (BCP 286), an ancient chant of praise inspired by the Paschal light.

Cantor: Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Cantor: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And also with you.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Choir: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Cantor continues

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, the salvation of God's people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring us to the fullness of redemption.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the

waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it."

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Hymn 385: "Many and great, O God, are thy works"

Dakota Indian Chant

**1 Many and great, O God, are thy works,
maker of earth and sky;
thy hands have set the heavens with stars;
thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at thy word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey thy voice.**

**2 Grant unto us communion with thee,
thou star-abiding one;
come unto us and dwell with us;
with thee are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life with thee.**

The Collect

BCP 288

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily

The Rev. David P. Casey, O.P.

Exodus 14:10 - 31; 15:20 - 21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Hymn 648: "When Israel was in Egypt's land"

Go Down, Moses

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go.

3 They journeyed on at his command,
let my people go;
and came at length to Canaan's land,
let my people go. (Refrain)

Refrain:

**Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh
to let my people go.**

4 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. (Refrain)

2 The Lord told Moses what to do,
let my people go;
to lead the children of Israel through,
let my people go. (Refrain)

The Collect

BCP 289

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily

The Rev. David P. Casey, O.P.

Ezekiel 37:1 - 14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Hymn 508: "Breathe on me, Breath of God"

Nova Vita

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do or to endure.**

**4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity**

The Collect

BCP 291

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily

The Rev. David P. Casey, O.P.

Zephaniah 3:14 - 20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day

of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Hymn WLP 771: "O God of gentle strength"

Carlisle

**1 O God of gentle strength,
your love embraces me.
Within the sureness of your care
my heart rests willingly.**

**3 And when life's challenges
eclipse our mind with doubt,
let holy wisdom spark a flame
to drive the darkness out.**

**2 Your waters of rebirth
have claimed us as your own.
As members of one body,
we shall never be alone.**

**4 Where will the journey lead?
The path may be obscure.
But promised hope of things unseen
will keep our footing sure.**

The Collect

BCP 291

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily

The Rev. David P. Casey, O.P.

Procession to the Baptism Font

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

BCP 301

Amelia Thompson

The Celebrant says

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsor: I present Amelia to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant: Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate: I do.

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer: I do.

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People: We will.

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant *(said by all)*

BCP 304

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate

BCP 305

Leader: Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

BCP 306

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Baptism

BCP 307

Amelia, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

Amelia, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Welcome

BCP 308

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The candles at the Altar are lighted from the Paschal Candle. Bells, chimes, and all noisemakers are joyfully struck / shaken.

Gloria in excelsis: S280

Robert Powell

Glory to god in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.**

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect

BCP 295

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Romans 6:3-11

New Revised Standard Version

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Hymn 182 (st. 1+2): "Christ is alive!"

Truro

**1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.**

**2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and conquer every place and time.**

NRSV translation

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Reader: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

The Rev. David P. Casey, O.P.

Prayers of the People (Form III)

BCP 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

O God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God hear the prayers of your people which we offer in the Name of our risen savior, Jesus Christ; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name. **Amen**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We invite you to share your gifts in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation. You may place your gift in the offering plate. You can also give online (bit.ly/stggive) or text to give (send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133).

Offertory Anthem

Instrumental Music

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer A)

BCP 361

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S130 *sung by choir*

Franz Schubert

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem: S154 *sung by choir*

David Hurd

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Invitation to Communion

All who seek a closer relationship with God are invited to receive communion:

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

We offer the following prayer with those who are present spiritually but physically at a distance. Afterward, clergy will provide instructions to those present in-person about the reception of communion.

All: Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though we cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine together, we thank you that we have received Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion and resurrection. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we embody your love, be renewed for your service, and be reflections of the awakened and risen Lord. Amen.

Music During Communion

The Post-communion prayer

BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 205: "Good Christians, all rejoice and sing" *Gelobt set Gott*

**1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**2. The Lord of life is risen today!
Sing songs of praise along his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**5 To God the Father, God the Son,
to God the Spirit, always One,
we sing for life in us begun:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3. Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Dismissal

The congregation responds

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Holy Week 2021 Schedule

We are excited to share our Holy Week worship schedule with you! Please be sure to make reservations for in-person worship soon!

If you are unable to make a reservation, contact us (540.373.4133).

Palm Sunday - March 28

9 am: In-person Worship with Holy Communion in Market Square and YouTube Live. We will celebrate the Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion. [Reserve seats here.](#)

2 pm: Outdoor Labyrinth Walk at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (25 Chalice Circle). Please wear a mask and sturdy shoes.

Tuesday - March 30

8 pm: Live stream, sung Compline service via our [Compline Choir's Facebook page.](#)

Wednesday - March 31

12 pm: Clergy will lead Noon Prayer via our [Facebook page.](#)

Maundy Thursday - April 1

7 pm: Live stream worship with a sermon, Spiritual Communion, and stripping of the altar. The service will be live streamed via [YouTube Live.](#)

Good Friday - April 2

12 pm: In-person worship with sermon and prayers. Make your [reservations here.](#) The service will also be live streamed via [YouTube Live.](#)

7 pm: The St. George Chamber Choir sings The Passion According to St. John by Heinrich Schütz. This pre-recorded video will premiere on our [Facebook page.](#)

Holy Saturday - April 3

8:30 am: Pastor Joe will live stream Morning Prayer from the Nave via [Facebook Live.](#)

5 pm: Children's Easter Vigil via Zoom. Please contact [Hecti Musa](#) for the login.

8 pm: The Great Easter Vigil with Holy Baptism, live streamed from our Nave via [YouTube Live.](#)

Easter Sunday - April 4

7:45 am: Rite I with Holy Communion, Indoor Worship in our nave. Seating is limited. [Reserve seats here.](#)

9 am: Episcopal Service of the Word, live streamed from our Nave via [YouTube Live.](#)

10 am: Adult Formation / Coffee Hour via Zoom. www.zoom.us/join or call 929.205.6099; Meeting ID: 392 738 239 Password: 107758.

11:30 am: Easter Egg Hunt in our graveyard

2 pm: In-person Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion at the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds. The service will be posted online as soon as possible following the service. [Reserve seats here.](#)

Upcoming Fellowship and Formation Events

For details on these events and more visit stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Office Note

Our office is closed on Monday, April 5. If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573.

Fredericksburg Area Museum Exhibit

Our 300th Anniversary Celebrations include a special exhibit next door at the Fredericksburg Area Museum. The exhibit opens April 3. Stay tuned for more information on special events for St. Georgians.

Shrine Mont Sunday: April 11

We are planning to return to Shrine Mont for our annual parish weekend, October 8 - 10. Our theme is Reconnect to God's Wonder – *Cast Your Nets*, as we hope to have a chance just to reconnect with each other and explore our common connections. On Sunday, April 11, at 10 am, during the adult forum on Zoom, we will share more about the weekend and open registration.

Reopening The Table

We are so happy to announce that, as of May 4th, The Table will be back in person. We will gather in Market Square for one session each Tuesday 12 pm – 2 pm. If you've been missing volunteering and missing our shoppers, [please fill out this survey](#) and let us know how you can help. More info to come, but spread the word!

300th Anniversary

On April 30 and May 1, we will celebrate the anniversary when St. George's parish was officially established. We will welcome the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry for two events. On April 30, from 7 - 8:30 pm, we will gather on Zoom for an interactive conversation with the Presiding Bishop. On May 1, we will offer a live-streamed Eucharist service commemorating our 300th anniversary at 11 am followed by an unveiling of the Historic Register plaque outside the church. Bishop Curry will preach. If health conditions allow, we will open this event to some in-person attendees.

St. George's Reads Love is the Way

In preparation for Bishop Curry's visit, all parishioners are encouraged to read his newest book, "Love is the Way" in April. We will have two Sunday forums on April 18 and 25 to discuss the book.

Upcoming Fellowship and Formation Events

For details on these events and more visit stgeorgesepiscopal.net

UTO Boxes Ingathering on Easter

We distributed the little blue United Thank Offering boxes as part of the Lent-to-go bags. As you have been thankful and put coins and bills in the box, you are supporting grants for ministry around the Episcopal Church and the world. Bring your box to one of our in-person services on Easter Sunday or to the egg hunt.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King (DoK) is a community of women and girls, lay and ordained, joined together by a rule of life, which involves a commitment to service and prayer. The parish is invited to join the DoK for a study of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's new book "Love is the Way" as well as to participate in creating a book composed of a collection of prayers, photography, art, short stories, reflections, inspirational quotes that will be published and available in Advent 2021. For more information, please contact Candace Allshouse (dominiceltic@aol.com).

Media Ministry

We plan to continue livestreaming many of our services and events even after we can regather in-person and will need volunteers to provide basic technical support. Training will be provided. Contact the church office for more information.

Care for College Students

We would like to send cards of encouragement to our college students as the end of the semester approaches. Please contact our young adult missionary, the [Rev. David Casey](#), if you would like to help us with these cards or to provide mailing information for a student.

St. George's Preschool's Spring Scholarship Fundraiser

Green George, Green George, what do you see? I see little Dragons blooming in front of me! Please join us in supporting our little Dragons' scholarship fund by sponsoring our flower garden this year. Our preschool families, both current and alumni, are busy creating art flowers for us to turn into an art collage. Large flowers can be sponsored for \$100, small flowers for \$25 and leaves for \$10. Our fundraiser will run through April 20 and donations can be made to St. George's Preschool by check mailed to St. George's Episcopal Church, PO Box 7127, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 or online. All proceeds will benefit the preschool's scholarship fund. For more information and to take a virtual tour of our preschool, please visit <https://sgpreschool.wordpress.com>.

Children and Youth Formation and Fellowship

Due to the pandemic, we have moved our children and youth formation primarily to an online format.

Children's Formation

Videos available on Sundays at 8 am, YouTube channel.

Our children's formation is open to students pre-K3 to 5th grade. Currently, we are offering weekly pre-recorded formational videos, and a monthly pre-recorded children's homily led by one of our clergy for families to enjoy together. We are also offering a children's gathering via Zoom the first Sunday of every month, as an opportunity for the children to see each other and share some time together. Please contact [Hecti Musa](#) if you would like the Zoom link.

Youth Group

Sundays at 5pm, Zoom;

Currently, our youth group meets on Sundays at 5pm via Zoom. We gather for conversations about faith and issues affecting our lives, and to connect with friends. While it has been difficult to gather for our usual in-person fun over the past year, we have had a few opportunities to have fun in-person and hope to continue to have more in the coming months.

Mission Trip

Traditionally, St. George's rising 8th - 12th graders go on an annual mission trip during the summer. This year, we're going to offer exciting week-long opportunities to serve. More details to come. If you are interested or have any questions please contact [Hecti Musa](#).

Youth in Global Community

In March, a group of 11th and 12th grade high school girls and their moms travel to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in NYC. We begin our preparation for this trip in the fall. In our meetings, we learn about issues that confront women and girls nationally and worldwide and our response as people of faith. Contact [Sheryl Stroud Bryant](#) for more information and to join us next Fall.

Volunteers Needed

There is always an opportunity to get involved! The St. George's children and youth need volunteers for in-person events in the coming months. Please contact [Hecti Musa](#) or call 540.373.4133

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a shared ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, we share the love of Christ with all. If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to one of our pastoral care ministries listed below.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV)

During the pandemic, Lay Eucharistic Visitors have been authorized to make short visits to homebound parishioners to share in the Eucharist, with observance of practices to ensure safety of all involved. If you are interested in serving or in receiving a visit, please contact the office or clergy.

One Body Response Team (OBRT)

The members of this team care for those in our community by providing home visits, meals, phone calls, cards and offering transportation needs. During the pandemic, this ministry team offers connection through phone calls and cards. To sign up as a recipient of OBRT, please contact the office or clergy.

Prayer Group and Prayer Chain

The prayer group prays for those on our prayer lists and any other requests received. The Prayer Chain ministers pray for any prayer requests received. To be added to the Prayer Chain as a prayer chain minister or if you have a request, please email [Ann Tebbutt](#). To be added to the prayer list, please contact the office or clergy.

Personal Prayer Ministry

Personal prayer ministers respond to the needs of parishioners who request prayer by listening and providing intercessory prayer, mostly during services. During the pandemic, personal prayer ministers are available to pray with you by phone or pray for you based on [prayer requests received online](#).

Prayer Shawl and Quilt Ministries

These ministry teams provide hand-made knitted prayer shawls or quilts to support members dealing with trying and significant life events. Shawls and quilts are mantles of healing and comfort and prayers are said for the recipient in the making of the shawl or quilt. To receive a prayer shawl or quilt, please contact the office or clergy.

Stephen Ministry

Ministers are trained caregivers who provide confidential care to people in need of spiritual support through Christ's love. Ministers meet regularly with their care receivers and pray for them. They provide non-judgmental listening. To request the companionship of a Stephen minister, please contact clergy.

Drop-in Grief Support Group (Trinity Episcopal)

For those facing various types of grief, this monthly meeting shares experiences and learn about ways to deal with grief. To learn more about it, please contact [Randall Clingenpeel](#).

Contact Staff

**For pastoral emergencies:
540.361.8573**

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Serving Today

Thank you to our worship leaders serving today. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office: office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Clergy:

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan
The Rev. William S. Dickinson

Preacher:

The Rev. David P. Casey, O.P.

Liturgical Coordinator:

Kris Boyd

Lector:

Ethel Hellman

Altar Guild:

Barbara Blöse
Vicki Harrison

Flowers:

St. George's Flower Guild

Music:

Allison Carroll
Dave Davies
Abbey Martinez
Achim Loch
John Vreeland

Videographer:

Nicholas Perron

Social Media Host:

St. George's Staff

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector
The Rev. Will Dickinson,
Curate

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