

The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

10:30am ~ Liturgy of the Word with Amazing Grace ~



~From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.~

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

617-527-6642 office@parishofstpaul.org www.parishofstpaul.org

SERVICE MINISTERS

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. Cara Rockhill
Accompanist: Dustin Ledgard
LEM: Tricia Tyler (*Statement of Faith & Prayers of the People*)
Readers: David Montgomery (*reading 1 & Psalm*), Bernice Cramer (*Psalm & reading 2*), Margaret Hummel (*response leader*)
Service Welcome: The Rev. Cara Rockhill
Attendance:

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happy Birthday to Robin Barber – May 5th and Craig Blay – May 8th!

IN OUR DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

For the Episcopal Church USA: Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Alan Gates and Gayle Harris, our Bishops, St. Anne's in-the-Fields Church, Lincoln, St. Paul's Church, Natick, Trinity Chapel, Shirley, and St. Mark's Church, Southborough.

PARISH PRAYER LIST - PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

May 2021: James Clark, Jeanne Balcom, Casey Nichols, Esther, Susanna and David Lee, Alice Kast, Margaret Lewis, Michelle Zlomek, Albert Mueller, Elise Ware, Lynda Winkowski, Kathy Brothets, Ed Winkowski, Roger Blake, Sebastian Coyle, Maureen Bruce, Hanna Johnson, Joan Musial, Tommy Foley, John Yuskas, Mary Miller, Tom Melideo, Constance Williams, Tori Simmons, Sara Radin, Amy Rader Olsson, Carter Lustig, Sally Montgomery, Robin, Murdock Morrison, Grace McGregor, Natsuko Horiuchi, Shuhei Yasuda and Julie Le.

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge The Rev. Cara Rockhill – crockhill@parishofstpaul.org
Parish Administrator Carolyn Hoogendoorn – office@parishofstpaul.org

10:30am ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter ~
 ~ Liturgy of the Word with Amazing Grace ~

PRELUDE

Dustin Ledgard

OPENING HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

HYMNAL #174

Alternate text in red

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

Ma-ker

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, **Fa - ther**, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Section: Easter Title: At the Lamb's high feast we sing Meter: 77. 77. D Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

OPENING SENTENCES

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ has risen!

All: **Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

16 Glory to God Gloria 3
Canon

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. It features two systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system includes chords Dm, Gm, C, and F, and is marked with circled letters A and B. The second system is marked with circled letters C and D.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

Officiant: God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: **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 loves with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LESSONS

*(this week's Psalm comes from the St. Helena Psalter and
the other readings are from the Inclusive Bible)*

THE FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes to Gaza, the desert road." So, Philip began his journey. It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, the ruler of Ethiopia, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and meet that carriage." When Philip ran up, he heard the eunuch reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I," the eunuch replied, "unless someone explains it to me?" With that, he invited Philip to get in the carriage with him. This was the passage of scripture being read: "You are like a sheep being led to slaughter, you are like a lamb that is mute in front of its shearers: like them, you never open your mouth. You have been humiliated and have no one to defend you. Who will ever talk about your descendants, since your life on earth has been cut short?" The eunuch said to Philip, "Tell me, if you will, about whom the prophet is talking—himself or someone else?" So, Philip proceeded to explain the Good News about Jesus to him. Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is some water right there. Is there anything to keep me from being baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop; then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch didn't see him anymore, and went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself at Ashdod next, and he went about proclaiming the Good News in all the towns, until he came to Caesarea.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 22:24-30;

24. My praise is of you in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.
25. The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek you shall praise you:
"May your heart live for ever!"
26. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

27. For yours is the royal power, O God;
you rule over the nations.
28. To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before you.
29. My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you;
they shall be known as yours for ever.
30. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that you have done.

THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One. Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

The way we know that we remain in God and God in us is that we have been given the Spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that God has sent the Only Begotten as Savior of the world. When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten, God dwells in them and they in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God in them. Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear—because our relation to this world is just like Christ's. There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear. To fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love. We love because God first loved us. If you say you love God but hate your sister or brother, you are a liar. For you cannot love God, whom you have not seen, if you hate your neighbor, whom you have seen. If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Unison or harmony

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea - son

sor - row! My Love, the Cru - ci - fied, hath
 riv - er: Lord of all life, from ill my
 slum - ber, till trump from east to west shall

Refrain

sprung to life this mor - row.
 pass - ing life de - liv - er. Had Christ, that once was
 wake the dead in num - ber.

slain, ne'er burst his three-day pri - son, our faith had been in
 vain; but now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en, a - ris - en.

Section: Easter Title: This joyful Eastertide Meter: 67. 67 with Refrain Words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934), alt. Music: *Vruechten*, melody from *Psalmen*, 1685; harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926) Copyright: Words: By permission of A.R. Mowbray and Co Ltd. From The Cowley Carol Book by G.R. Woodward and C. Wood. Reprinted under Onelicense.net. #A-714071.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

“I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.”

Officiant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Cara Rockhill

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(read out loud by the LEM)*

**We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
we put our trust in God;
and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves,
in the service of others,
to seek justice, and to live in peace;
to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness;
to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love.
And in the company of the faithful we will be the church,
a community of flawed and forgiving disciples,
for the glory of God alone.**

Amen.

Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Community © 2001

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(read out loud by the LEM)*

One: Merciful God, you have promised to hear when we pray.
Therefore, we pray in confidence and trust.
We pray for the Church. May the Holy Spirit enlighten and energize the Church for its mission.

All: **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

One: Breathe fresh life into your people.

All: **Give us power to reveal Christ in every word and action.**

One: We pray for the world. Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

All: **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

One: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that share this island home.

All: **Teach us to care gratefully and creatively for its resources.**

One: We offer prayers for our beloved community.

God of truth, inspire us with your wisdom and compassion.

All: **That we may live your will with integrity and courage.**

One: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours especially for those who are in any sort of pain, and those who are listed on our Parish Prayer List (*read the names*). And, for those listed in our virtual Community Prayer Book this week (*read from our virtual community prayer book*). We lift up these joys, sorrows and intercessions from the heart of this Beloved Community. God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

All: **May they know the power of your healing love.**

One: Make us willing agents of your compassion.

All: **Strengthen us for the hard work of reconciliation and right relationships.**

One: We remember with thanksgiving those who have left this mortal coil and returned to you including all whom we have lost during this pandemic but whose bright lights are not forgotten.

All: **God, into your ever-loving hands we commend them.**

One: We pray for the many ministries of this beloved community.
May your word be a lamp to our feet.

All: **In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, O God, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of God be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(We invite you to say whatever version of the Lord's Prayer is most meaningful for you.)

Officiant: As Jesus taught us we now pray:

All: **Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And 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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant: Let us pray together.

All: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family. Take away the fears that infect our hearts. Break down the walls that separate us. Unite us in the bonds of love and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth. In your good time, O God, let all nations and peoples live in harmony and find that new and resurrected life promised through Christ Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN *(video)* *The strife is O'er, the Battle Done* *arr. William Henry Monk*

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us live in peace and love each other in the name of the risen Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Vestry!

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