



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

Guest Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Christine Veillon
Music Director: Wonjung Choo

Usher: Ed Woodyard
LEM: Petrie Verma
Lector: Neal Baumann
Altar Guild: Annlee Milani
Flower Guild: Charity Lunder
Coffee Hour: The Lunders



Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We hope that the music, scripture readings, prayer and sacrament we share today give you strength and inspire you to share the love of God in the world as freely as it has been given to you. If there is anything you need this morning, please ask the usher who greeted you as you arrived or anyone else with a role in the service.

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn "God is Love, let heaven adore him"

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

The Celebrant welcomes everyone and introduces the service

The Liturgy of the Word

Priest Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

All The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!



Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Priest Let us pray

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

You may be seated for the first scripture reading.

New Testament Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Lector A reading from the First Letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

“Lord, whose love through humble service”

1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we

need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's
 bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we
 light, in its height and depth and great - ness, dawns up - on our
 go, to the child, the youth, the a - ged love in liv - ing

per - fect deed, we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
 mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion
 quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
 deeds to show; hope and health, good will and com - fort,

not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
 healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
 coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser - vants,

continued on next page



to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
Spi - rit kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

Rev. Christine Veillon

All may be seated for the sermon

The Prayers of the People

Priest: O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbors. As his followers in our own time, we raise to you our prayers on behalf of the whole human family and the world.

Leader: We ask your blessing upon the church, its leaders, members and those it serves. Make of us, and of the church everywhere, communities which are noted for care, committed in faith, and contagious in enthusiasm. Although we cannot do everything,
Enable us to do some things.

We pray for those who are oppressed and forgotten in our nation and throughout the world. Visit them with the grace of Christ, and through us, who endeavor to love others in his name, bring them aid. Although we cannot do everything,
Enable us to do some things.

We pray for those who are weakened and ill in this congregation and beyond, for those who suffer constant pain, for those who are dying and all who care for them, for the bereaved and their loving friends who walk with them in consolation. We especially lift up to you this day **Dorothy Keane, Joosje DeRuiter, Nancy Zack, Don Rains, Kenneth Grindley, Janette Cothrel, Steve Tomback, Mary Lou Cothran, Bob Thurmond, Rachel Clausen Cramer, Sharon Miller, and Elizabeth Verma**, and ask you to watch over those who care for them.
Enfold them in your soothing embrace.

In this time of holy encounter with you, we reflect on what your presence means in our lives, what we need from you now, and what you are calling us to say and do in the world.

Let yourself linger in this moment of reflection and summoning

Priest: Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that our world may come closer to experiencing your righteous justice and mercy. **Amen.**



The Confession

Priest Let us now confess our sins against God and against our neighbor.

After a brief centering silence, we pray together

**All Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with those around you. After this, please be seated for the announcements.

Offeratory Hymn

“I Love to tell the story”
Sung by choir



Please stand, as you are able, for the Doxology – a hymn to the Holy Trinity giving thanks for the bread, the wine and the collection

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures
here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Priest continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

The musical score is written on four staves in G major and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) and a final measure with a long horizontal line indicating a continuation of the melody.

You are invited to kneel or remain standing as your own piety leads you

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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, according to his command, O Father,

**All We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**All 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 Priest lifts up the consecrated bread.

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

In the Episcopal Church we welcome all who wish to receive communion, as conscience and religious tradition allow. The usher will invite you to come to the communion rail. To receive the bread please extend your hands to the priest. To receive the wine gently guide the chalice to your lips as it is extended to you. If you prefer to receive the communion wine by intinction (having the wafer dipped in the wine instead of drinking from the chalice) please hold the bread out to the Eucharistic minister and allow them to take it from your hand. Should you prefer not to receive communion, the priest can pray for God's blessing in your life. Simply indicate your desire for this by crossing your arms over your chest as he approaches. After all have received we give thanks to God for the gift of this sacrament.

Priest Let us pray.

All God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Priest offers a Blessing prior to the closing hymn



Closing Hymn “Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing”

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

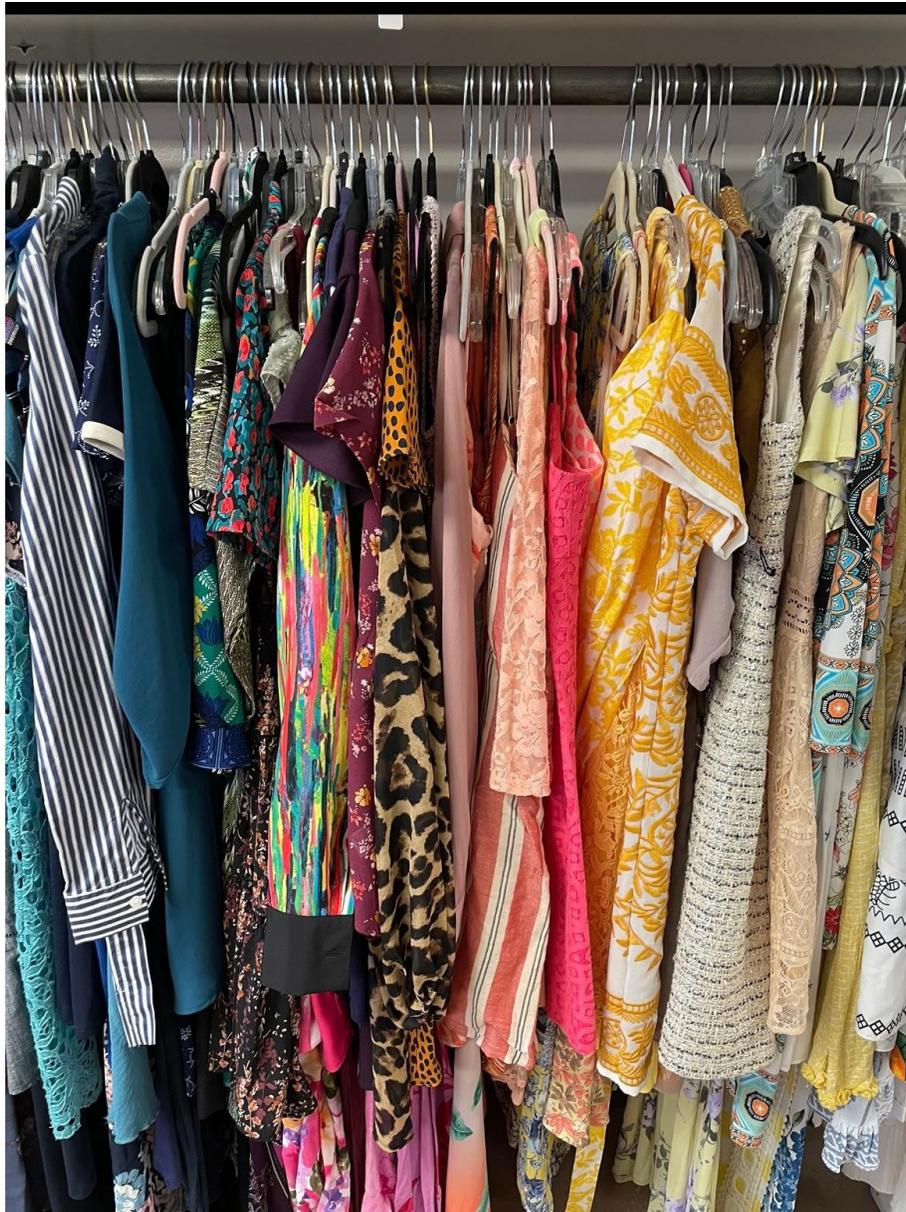
Organ Postlude

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**Wednesdays 10-2
Saturdays 10-3**