



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 21, 2024

Welcome to Saint John's!

Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

An Acknowledgement

We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and we pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.

Invitation to Holy Communion

This is God's table. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To eat, present your hands to be given bread. To drink, take a sip as the cup is held to your lips. Dipping the bread into the wine is discouraged for reasons of public health. Be assured the risen Christ is present in each element. To receive only one is to receive the fullness of grace. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

***Bold text** is said by the assembly*

**Stand as you are able*

Prelude Several variations on “O Gott, du frommer Gott”, J S Bach

*Gathering Hymn *Hymnal 1982 #304*, I come with joy to meet my Lord

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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. Amen

Gloria 1982 *Hymnal S-280*

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *Responsively by whole verse*

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures ***

and leads me beside still waters.

³ He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

I shall fear no evil; *

**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ***
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

A reading from the First Letter of John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.


²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

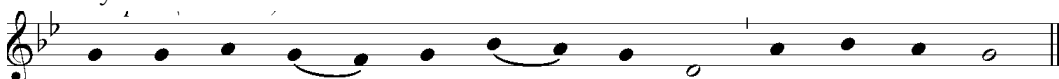
*Gospel Acclamation

Cantor



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!


Assembly



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor sings verse
O sons and daughters let us sing!
The King of heaven, the glorious King,
O'er death and hell rose triumphing.
Alleluia!

Assembly



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Gospel

Luke 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know

me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Vicki Ix

Shared silence

*Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider 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.**

Presider 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider. 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.**

Presider Will you strive to cherish the wondrous works of God, and

protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People **I will, with God's help.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Sprinkling Rite *cantors sings verses* LEVAS #143, Wade in the water

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The first system contains the lyrics: "Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa-ter, chil - dren,". The second system contains the lyrics: "Wade in the wa - ter, God's a-gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter." and ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

The Prayers of the People

Adapted from Planning for Rites and Rituals

For the Church and all who minister to God's people, that we may embody the love of our risen Lord.

Hear us, loving God.

For our elected leaders, on whom the responsibility for the welfare of the most vulnerable rests.

Hear us, loving God.

For peace in troubled places, between nations, and among religious factions.

Hear us, loving God.

For those seeking work, just compensation, affordable housing and nutritious food on their table.

Hear us, loving God.

For the creation longing to be restored and for swift, decisive action by nations and corporations.

Hear us, loving God.

For the sick, the grieving and all who suffer from mental illness and addiction.

Hear us, loving God.

For all our beloved ones who live now in God's glory.

Hear us, loving God.

Cycles of Prayer

I ask your prayers for those remembered in our cycles of prayer. In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for St. Helena's, Lenox; Creation Care; Mampong Babies Home, Ghana; Episcopal Media Services; Archives of The Episcopal Church. In our town's cycle we pray for our libraries, Historical Society and Trails Committee. Among our members and friends, we pray for Janice Howes, Peter Howes; Arnold Jones, Riley and Rowan; Faith Burrington; The Rev. Vicki Ix, Gosia Ix; Sara Jonsberg and Cynthia Ma Ruth Julian and David King; Joyce Ketcham; Thomas and Amy Kuhns; Hannah Jarrell; the Rev. Eric Kahl and Margaret; and Mac Naughton. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. **Amen.**

Presider concludes with a collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace*

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Please be seated

Wardens' Welcome & Anointing for Healing

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem St. John's Madrigal Singers—The Lord is my Shepherd (*H. Goodall*)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said

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 (Holy, Holy, Holy) S-130

Deutsche Messe Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx

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 Jesus 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 presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, 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 S-154

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 there - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

And now we pray with our online congregants

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Armed Services Prayer Book, 2008

ALL: In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.

CONGREGANTS ONLINE: Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come.

ALL: Amen.

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God!

Communion Hymn 1982 *Hymnal* #581, Where charity and love prevail

Post-communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth *Hymnal* 1982 #645, The King of love my shepherd is

Easter Blessing

The 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.

Sung Dismissal

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude Final variation on “O Gott, du frommer Gott”, J S Bach

Join us for coffee and conversation

Events

April 21: 1 p.m. Sacred Stroll – Soup and Bread at Corner beforehand

April 22: Audit for 2023, 10 a.m.

April 28: Offertory dedicated to Vicar’s Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

Acknowledgements

- Eucharistic Prayer A, includes expansive language options approved for trial use

- *Enriching Our Worship 1*
- Service Music reprinted with permission from RiteSong.com
- *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*
- *The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version*
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Contact Us

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Lay Leaders & Clergy

Vicar: The Rev. Vicki Ix, 362-0742 communications@diocesewma.org

Co-Senior Wardens: Sue Craft, 628-0289 and Susan Todd, 628-3998

Junior Warden: Maddy Roberts

Treasurer: Raven Harris

Clerk: Lynnette Leidy Sievert

Vestry: Jane Wagener, Andrew Wickline

Licensed Preachers: Raven Harris, Andrew Wickline

Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Sue Craft, Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Jane Wagener

Licensed Worship Leaders: Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Sue Craft

Seminarian: Elle Morgan

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Staff

Organist: Duane Nyman

Director, Madrigal Singers: Julie Meservey

Parish Administrator: Linnea McChesney email: stjohnsashfield@gmail.com

Financial Administrator: Amy Murray

Sexton: John Wickline

Ministries

Pastoral Care Team: Sue Craft

Liturgy Team: The Rev. Vicki Ix

Digital Ministry: Ted and Kara Toothaker, Andy Wickline, Thad Bennett

Buildings & Grounds Team: Maddy Roberts

Green Team: Kristin Wickline

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Kristen Wickline

LOVE in a Backpack: Maddy Leue

Bicentennial Celebrations: Addison Hall