



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 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 “Idyl” Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

*Gathering Hymn *Hymnal 1982 #529*, In Christ there is no East or West

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.

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.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30 *Responsively by whole verse*

²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷ **For kingship belongs to the Lord; ***

he rules over the nations.

²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹ **My soul shall live for him;**

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord’S for ever.

³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the First Letter of John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,

because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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.


¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

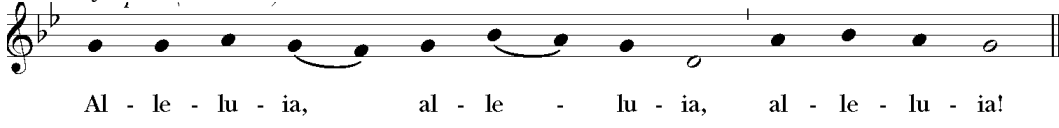


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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



*Gospel

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Susan Schaeffer

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*

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

Wade in the wa - ter, God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

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 Bangladesh. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Trinity Church, Lenox; Social Justice Commission; Church School teachers & Christian Educators; Episcopal Youth Event (EYE); The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM). In our town's cycle we pray for our elected officials and town employees. Among our members and friends, we pray for Mary Link; Michael and Kathy Maleno; Nancy Maleno; Vicky Maleno; Susan Manatt and Jeremy Rogers, Diana and Robert; and Matt Marchese; and Maddy Leue. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our Liturgy Team. **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 & God Moments

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem St. John's Madrigal Singers—#513, Like the murmur of a dove's song (*Bridegroom*)

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 Solo Kevin Blanchard

Abide with me (Perkins)

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 #182, Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

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 “Trumpet Tune” John Stanley (1713-86)

Join us for coffee and conversation

Events

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

May 11: Bell ringing for Climate Change at 11 a.m.

May 12: Vestry meeting

May 19: Pentecost

May 26: 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*

Contact Us

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Leadership

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

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