

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

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The Fifth Sunday of Easter

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

May 10, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Service broadcast online via livestream video

Messages from the rector and director of music on singing during the pandemic

From Susan Pinkerton, rector — Greetings to you all. We are living in a very strange time right now. As we shelter in place, many of us are working from home, some have lost their jobs, and living rooms are now classrooms as children take online courses, while many continue to do jobs that are essential in supporting our community's needs. Some are with family members and some of you are alone. No matter our situation, we have all given up much that we value or enjoy to stem the spreading of this awful disease. We make these sacrifices because we know something bigger is at stake — the health and welfare of our families, our neighbors, our community and ultimately the world. Out of compassion and love for one another, we are making sacrifices to keep each other safe from this virus that knows no boundaries.

Since we closed our church building almost seven weeks ago, we have moved our Sunday services entirely online. We are fortunate to have the technology and expertise to make this transition. In the process, we are meeting people literally where they are and we are learning a new and exciting way of being church, reminding us that no matter whether we are — in our beautiful sanctuary or in our living room or on a walk through our neighborhood — we know that God is with us.

Now we are called to make another sacrifice. Beginning this Sunday, we will no longer sing in the nave during our online service. This decision is based on recent scientific studies indicating that singing can dangerously increase the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. In response, our bishops have strongly recommended that all parishes discontinue public singing for the foreseeable future. The leadership at St. John's all agree that this is a necessary measure we must take for the safety of all.

We make this sacrifice out of love, knowing how sad and difficult it is. Jesus shows us with his own life that the way of love often requires sacrifice, when we give of ourselves out of love for others. I know this is a big loss for many, and it is right to grieve. However, as a people of faith we know that in time, in God's time, we will gather together and raise our voices in song and praise. And what a glorious celebration that will be.

But now is not the time. Now is the time to be in this strange place. And now is the time to take comfort in knowing that God holds it all, our sadness as well as our joy. Now is the time to remember that we are a people of hope and new beginnings. God bless you all.

From Scott Lamlein, director of music — As Susan has shared, we have entered yet another “new normal” in this challenging time. Who could have guessed two months ago that one of life's greatest joys — singing — could become a transmitter of a deadly virus? While my heart is hurting over this and the many question marks that loom over the future of our cherished choral music and hymn singing, I want to share what we can and will do musically now and at least in the short term.

Our Sunday morning services will continue to include organ voluntaries and hymns. On many Sundays, we will also have a virtual solo, duet, or choral anthem that has been pre-recorded by members of our choirs.

The hymns will be “led” by the organ alone, without a cantor, and the words for the hymns will be displayed on your screen and in the bulletin. While we cannot sing in the church, you can and should sing at home! Some of us remember the days when we'd sing hymns and songs around the piano as a family; here is a great opportunity to bring back that beautiful tradition, whether you are by yourself or have immediate family with you. There's no audition; there is nobody to turn around and glare at you if you sing too loudly.

Please join us in lifting our voices in praise to God. We are together even in this absence, and our song will bind us in love.

Here are links to a [webinar](#), an [article](#), and [a document from the Wisconsin Council of Churches](#) explaining concerns about singing during the pandemic.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Rhosymedre (“Lovely”)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

THE OPENING HYMN 366 Holy God, we praise thy Name

GROSSER GOTT

All are invited to sing or read along.

Holy God, we praise thy Name,
 Lord of all, we bow before thee;
 all on earth thy scepter claim,
 all in heaven above adore thee;
 infinite thy vast domain,
 everlasting is thy reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn
 angel choirs above are raising;
 cherubim and seraphim,
 in unceasing chorus praising,
 fill the heavens with sweet accord:
 holy, holy, holy Lord!

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Let us pray. 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.

People **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 7:55–60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus,

receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16

The people say the text in bold.

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.**
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:2–10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN It is well with my soul

All are invited to sing or read along.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sebillows roll;
 Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, hast the day when the faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
 The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
 "Even so" it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

THE GOSPEL

*John 14:1-14**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*A period of silence is kept. The people say the words in **bold**.*

As members in the body of Christ throughout the world, we pray for the Church: For our bishops, Ian and Laura; our clergy, lay leaders and ministers; and all the people of this parish. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the leaders of all nations be given the foresight to act with charity, wisdom and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who are losing their margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who settle in to quarantine at home remember those who have no home. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we give comfort to the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

As fear grips our country, let us choose love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant During this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. May those who have waited for you and hoped in your word know your steadfast love face to face. We offer up our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows to God, our refuge and strength. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Jesu, joy of man's desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Erica Maas, soprano

Jesu, joy of man's desiring
 Holy wisdom, love most bright
 Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
 Soar to uncreated light
 Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
 With the fire of life impassioned
 Striving still to truth unknown
 Soaring, dying round thy throne.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord 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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant 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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O lord of all; presenting to you, not bread and wine, because we cannot be together this day to share them, but our lives, our world, our concerns, our hopes, and all of creation.

We pray you gracious God, to accept our offering of ourselves and to transform us as Jesus did the bread and wine when he took them from his disciples, broke, blessed, and gave them once again as a sign of their new life in him.

Take us, bless us, open us, and make us new. 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 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 God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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 FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant The communion we receive is the unbroken communion of love, acceptance, and inclusion made known to us through the life of Jesus, who is among us this day. We are fed today by and in community, gathered together by our host, the Lord of love.

People **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 this gathering of the community he formed. 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.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN 455 O Love of God, how strong and true

DUNEDIN

All are invited to sing or read along.

**O Love of God, how strong and true,
 eternal and yet ever new;
 uncomprehended and unbought,
 beyond all knowledge and all thought.**

**We read thy power to bless and save
 e'en in the darkness of the grave;
 still more in resurrection light
 we read the fullness of thy might.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Minister dismisses the people, and the people respond. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE VOLUNTARY Trumpet Voluntary in D Major

Jeremiah Clarke (1674–1707)

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Preacher:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Organist:** Scott Lamlein**Soloist:** Erica Maas

Cover image: Resurrection by Josef Žáček

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In your prayers this week, please pray for:

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in the armed services, and for all victims of war and violence. The parish of Santa Cruz del Norte, our companion parish in Cuba, and Saint Sauveur School, Les Cayes, Haiti. Séminaire de Théologie d'Église Épiscopale d'Haïti (STEEH), the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti.

Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster; the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford; and the Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Our postulant, Michael Corey.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:

Jim Evans	Susan	Michael	Whitney Lynch
Kim Green	Edith Connolly	Beth	Daphne Lynch Fifield
Janet Ray	Sue	Chris	Lee
Susan Murray	Gwain Gillespie	Ellie Brown	Lonnie
Brad Babbitt	Nikki	Helen Moore	Tom Moore
Billy Ulrich	Andree	Prakash & Sue Huded	Patricia

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Jan Hickcox	Sidney Cech
Emma Pinney	Robert Eikel
Anthony Nelson	Jason Wright
Jack Barnes	Hal Cook

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Mark's, New Britain; St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; and for parish prayer groups, intercessory prayer chains, healing prayer groups, and parish and community Bible studies.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya.