

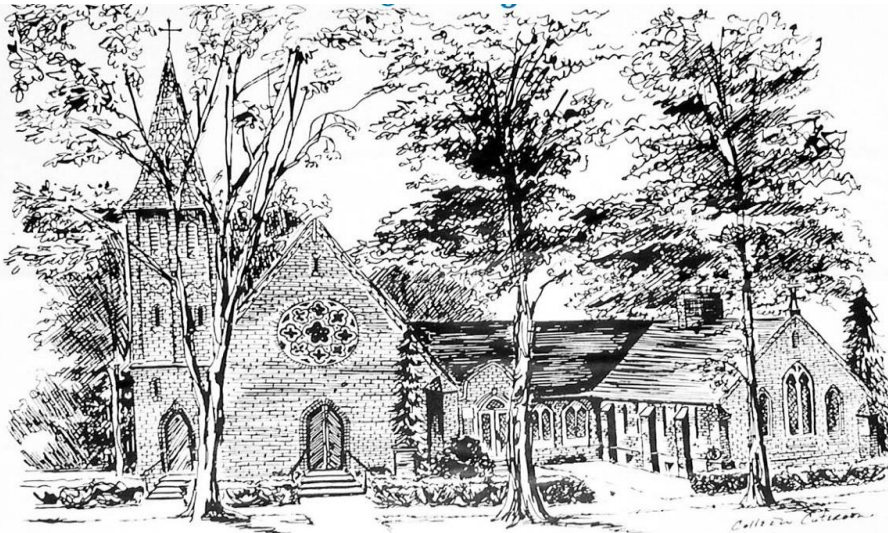
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Service of Morning Prayer

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 2, 2021

Sunday Worship: 10:00AM

Office Hours: 8:15am until 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

Serving Montrose and surrounding communities
With God's Love through Jesus Christ
Since 1831

SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELL BY ORGAN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *This Joyful Eastertide* tune: VREUCHTEN (Rejoice) arr. Dale Wood

OPENING SENTENCE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:

You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.

Forgive us, Holy God.

Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE JUBILATE Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands:*

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God:*

he himself has made us, and we are his;

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;*
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;*
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Psalm 22:24-30

- 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.

Reader: Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING - Acts 8:26-40

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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

THE THIRD SONG OF ISAIAH Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,*
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land;*
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,*
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light,*
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;*
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,*
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,*
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,*
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;*
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,*
and your God will be your glory.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE READING - 1 John 4:7-21

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Song of the Redeemed Revelation 15:3-4

***O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done,*
surpassing human understanding.***

***Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,*
O King of all the ages.***

***Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name?****

for you only are the Holy One.

***All nations will draw near and fall down before you,*
because your just and holy works have been revealed.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

ORGAN MEDITATION

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song tune: BRIDEGROOM arr. John Carter

THE GOSPEL - John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE HOMILY

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

*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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, we seek to abide in the Spirit of love, and bring our prayers to God, saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin, our bishop, and the local clergy who support us, Charles and Melinda, that our faith may deepen, our hope be strengthened, and our love abound, as we draw our life from the Risen Christ. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, and those of Christ Church and St Marks, that the Spirit will help us to bear witness to the good news of God's love, in deeds of justice, and service to others. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the grace of letting go, that God will help us to let go of those things which need to be pruned, so that life and love may flow through us as signs of God's love. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those places overwhelmed by the Corvid virus, particularly India and Brazil, that God will slow the spread, give strength to all caregivers, and open opportunities for vaccinations. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For an end to violence in our cities and communities, that God will turn hearts from destructive deeds, open pathways for dialogue, and protect the innocent from harm. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who are in need of our prayers, remembering especially..... that Christ will renew the gift of life within them, and strengthen them in God's love. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those suffering from addiction and for those who love and support them, that we share God's healing love through our unity in witness and action. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those who have died, remembering especially.....that they may abide in the love of God for ever. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***Alleluia! To you, O Lord, we give praise and glory.***

Celebrant Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace so that loving one another we may walk in the way that leads to eternal life. Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. ***Amen.***

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks***

*for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Festive March

by David Lasky

Officiant: Vickie Calby

Announcements & Lector: Lynne Graham

Organist: Catherine Hammons