

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 10:30 am

Welcome to St. James's!

We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.

However you come to this place, exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not, gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale; of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical, persons with or without disabilities, younger or older! Whoever you are,

know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does, unconditionally and completely just as you are!

10:30 am The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Eucharistic Ministers JT Kittredge, Mabel Moore-Pollard

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher & Presider The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Readers Tamasin Milner-Wohlers, Alfred Ironside

Ushers Nancy McArdle Videographer Michael Anthony Welcomer Nancy McArdle

The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell

Opening Hymn: If thou but trust in God to guide me



Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Music: Wer nur den lieben Gott, Georg Neumark (1621-1681)

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

All then 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. **Amen.**

Song of Praise: The Good Shepherd





Text: Richard Leach, 2001. Music: Patrick Michaels, 2010. Text © 2001 and music © 2020 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

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The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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.**

The First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Tamasin Milner-Wohlers

A reading from the Book of Acts.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. *Refrain*

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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. *Refrain*

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.

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. *Refrain*

The Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Tamasin Milner-Wohlers

A reading from the First Book of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater

than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And 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. All 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.

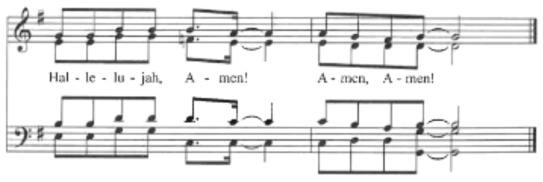
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah, Amen



Patrick Michaels



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The Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Affirmation of Faith: I believe in God almighty



Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) @GIA Publications Music: Afron (Major), harm. Carlton R. Young. @Abington Press.

Prayers for Earth Day Weekend (*The people say the words in bold.*) Alfred Ironside

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning, God was.

Here and now, God is.

In the future, God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer**.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer**.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help.

(A time is now kept for the community to offer their prayers aloud or in silence.)

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

(A time is now kept for the community to offer their prayer aloud or in silence.)

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

The Presider then says

Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements & Celebrations

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: Beauty Before Me

Text: Inspired by a Navajo Rain Ceremony chant

Presentation Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen again

H 184 v. 1

Music: Kristopher Erik Lindquist



Words: Michael Weisse (1480-1534); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Christ ist erstanden, melody from Geistliche Lieder, 1533

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

(Adapted from a prayer from St. Gregory of Nyssa San Francisco)

Presider The Lord 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.

The Presider says

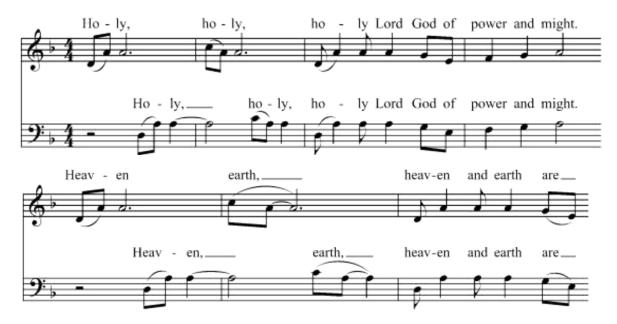
It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God our Creator and Lover. You make all things and call them good. You love us into being. You form us in your image.

And you breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away and our love fails, your love remains steadfast. You deliver us from captivity and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey. You set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

Sanctus MHSO 37





Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA. Music © 1988 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland) (admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Presider

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By his baptism of suffering and death you give your church birth into a living hope. Raising Jesus from the dead, you make a new covenant with us, by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom. We who were no people are now your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

On the night when he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, 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."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Then, on the third day you raised him from the dead and revealed him to the women who came to the tomb to care for his body. On that day he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of bread. And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, and we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People:

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Presider

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world, until all feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)

Hear our plea, dear Father we pray; shower upon us your heav'nly grace that we may be your people Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding, may your name always be hallowed by us. Your will is righteous and ever consistent, in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of. Please forgive us the sins we've committed. Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor as you have forgiven us ours.

Far from temptation we ask you to lead us. Save us also from all that is evil. Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory at this time and world without end.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. (Repeat line three times) Forever and ever. Amen.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. (Repeat line three times) Forever and ever. Amen.

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The Breaking of the Bread (Silence is kept)

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover





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Music: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Oxford University Press; desc. Alec Wyton (b. 1921),

C Paraclete Press

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The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Presider

Administration of Communion

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.

Those that wish a blessing or a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.

All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

Communion Anthem

Communion Hymn: My shepherd will supply



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para. of Psalm 23. Music: Resignation, American folk melody, acc. David Hurd (b. 1950).

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with the spiritual food that is the Risen One, Jesus Christ. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Presider

May the peace of the Risen Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.

May Christ guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

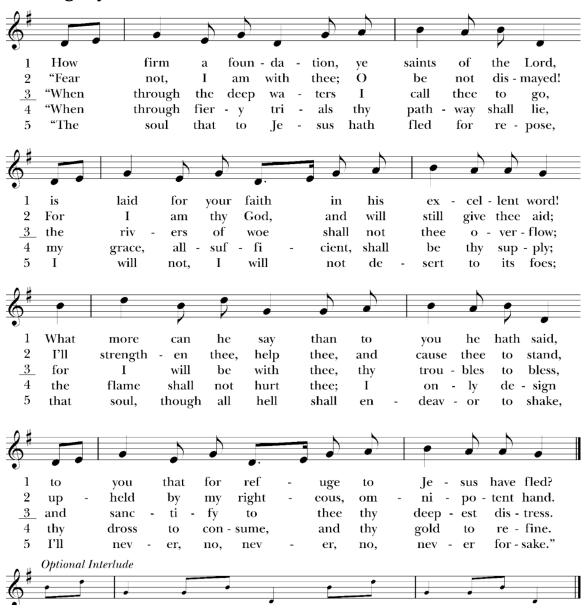
May Christ bring you home rejoicing, at the wonders he has shown you.

May Christ bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: How Firm a Foundation





Words: K. in John Rippon's Selection, 1787, alt. Music: Foundation, melody from The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. Calvin Hampton (1938-1984); alt. acc. Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929).

Dismissal

Presider With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

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Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at matt@stjamescambridge.org

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