

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter: The Baptism of Brigid Kathryn Marsan-Ryan

> April 28, 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter, Holy Baptism

Acolytes Jonte Folkes, Sage Binzen, Xenia Binzen, Sofia Ironside

Eucharistic Ministers Tamasin Milner-Wohlers, Alvin Lindo

Intercessor Tom Marsan-Ryan
Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher & Presider The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Readers Thomas DeFreitas, Dana Evelyn

Ushers Mark Agard, Ren and Meg Aukeman

Videographer Alice Killian Welcomer JT Kittredge

The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell

Opening Hymn: The church of Christ



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LM

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;

People There is one hope in God's call to us;

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Creator of all.

The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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.**

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Thomas DeFreitas

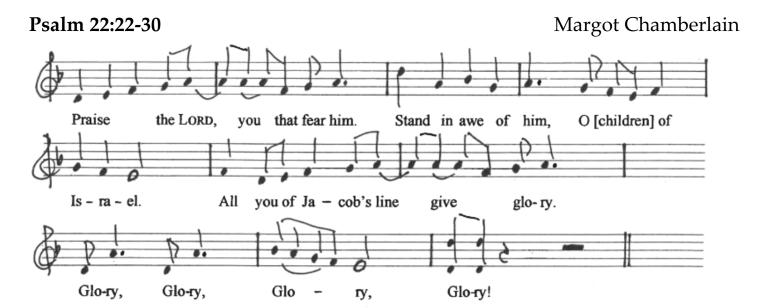
A reading from the Book of Acts.

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

People Thanks be to God.



For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; *

but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. *Refrain* The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. *Refrain*

For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him. *Refrain*

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done. *Refrain*

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Dana Evelyn

A reading from the First Book of John.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Patrick Michaels

Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah, Amen



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The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

People Glory to you, O Christ.

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

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

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Holy Baptism

Baptismal Hymn: Take me to the water

1. Take me to wa take me ter. 2. None___ the right but cous. none__ but the love. Je sus. love. 4. He's. my Sav ior,

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Words: Traditional Music: Negro Spiritual arr. Horace Clarence Boyer Copyright @ 1992

The Presider says

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the word, God delivers us from sin and death, and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we are united with the whole Body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The Candidate for baptism is then presented by his Sponsors, as follows:

I present Brigid Kathryn Marsan-Ryan to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Presider

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Sponsors

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you by your prayers and witness help Brigid to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Sponsors

I will, with God's help.

The Presider then asks the following questions of the parents and sponsors

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces

of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world

which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you

from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Presider addresses the congregation, saying

Presider Will you who witness these vows do all in your

power to support Brigid in her life in Christ?

People We will.

The Presider then says these words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

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 cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty

and integrity of all creation?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Let us now pray for Brigid who is to receive the Sacrament of

new birth.

Intercessor Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Presider then says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Thanksgiving over the Water

Presider May God be with you. People And also with you.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presider continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

The candidate is presented to the Presider who then pours water upon the candidate: Brigid Kathryn, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Presider marks the forehead of the candidate with the sign of the cross: Brigid Kathryn, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Then the Presider, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Presider says Let us welcome the newly baptized.

The Presider and People all now say

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The People then continue to welcome the newly baptized with a round of applause.

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

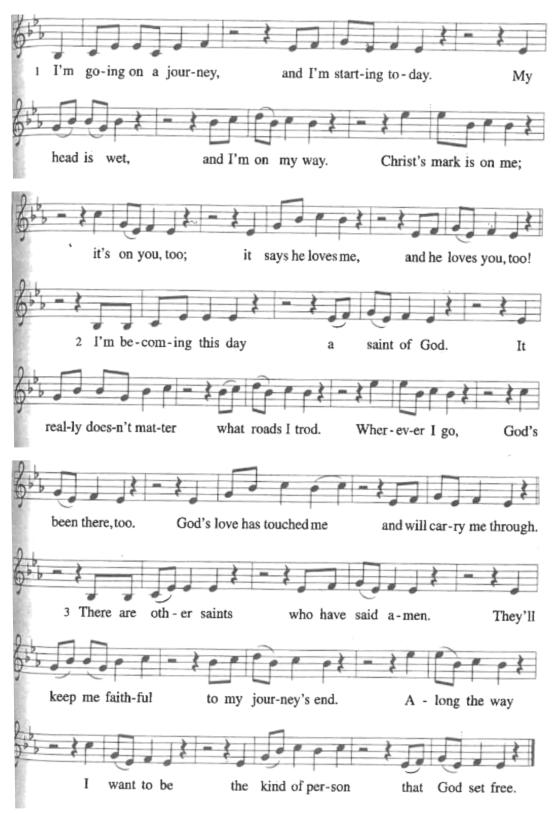
Offertory Sentence

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.

Lutheran BW 446

Offertory Hymn: I'm going on a journey



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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.

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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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The Invitation

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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: Lord, I Sing a Song of Joy *The Greenleaf Choir*

Antonin Dvorák arr. Hal H. Hopson

Communion Hymn: Guide my feet Lord



Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Carl Harris, Jr. (b. 1935).

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: A Eunuch, Trusted by My Queen



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C.M.D.

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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