SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

Prelude Adoration F. Price

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 348, standing Lord, we have come at your own invitation. O QUANTA QUALIA

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord 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.**

Canticle 13 S-236 Benedictus es, Domine J. Rutter





The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

People Thanks be to God.

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, * for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.

3 The LORD has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 455, standing O Love of God, how strong and true

DUNEDIN

Holy Gospel: John 15:9-17, standing

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

The Sermon Mairi Graham-Shaw

Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, standing

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.

Pray for the World and the Church, standing

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our

Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura our bishops, Kate our priest; for this gathering

and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being

of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for those who are poor, sick, hungry, or oppressed, and for

those who are in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Margie Faulkner, Nancy Gould, Toni H., John Hayes, Brigida Matute, Chris Miller, Marjorie Misch, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Christopher Rogers, Jerry Williams and

those we now name either silently or aloud.

Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that

they may find and be found by God.

Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Bill Bevan and Tiina Härmand.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Intercessor I ask your prayers for our St. John's community, Reverend Kate and her family as

the discernment process for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia continues in the weeks ahead. We also pray for the other nominees and their congregations. May we all be at peace with the waiting and the eventual results, continue to support one another in community, and share God's good news by word and

example. *Silence*

Intercessor: At this time, you may offer your own intercessions and thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of

your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord

Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit

keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of the risen Christ be always with you!

People And also with you!

Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.*

As is our new tradition at St. John's, today's Loose Plate Offering will be placed into the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Anthem "O love" E. Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thy ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be. O Joy that seeks me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A Expansive Language, standing

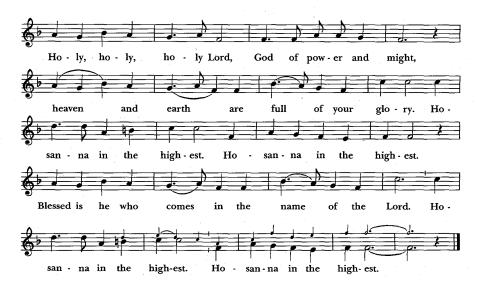
PresiderGod be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.

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. 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 S-125 Holy, Holy, Holy

R. Proulx



The people stand or kneel.

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:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 pray:

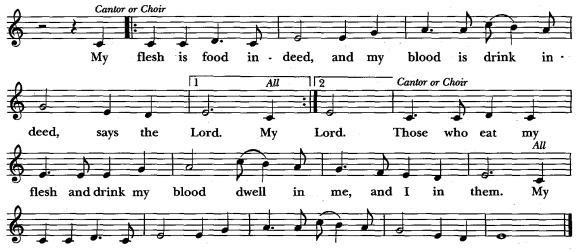
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-169

My flesh is food indeed

R. W. Irwin



flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn (W & R 689) One Bread, One Body

J. Foley



Prayer after Communion, standing

Presider Let us pray.

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 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 of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested

Presider In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that

those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and

blood.

People We, who are many, are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.

The Blessing, standing

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.**

Hymn 610, standing Lord, whose love through humble service BLAENHAFREN

The Dismissal

Presider Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude Voluntary W. Boyce

St. John's Essex maintains a OneLicense.net license (#711931-A) for the reproduction of music that is under copyright.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given by Jane Riggio in memory of her mother, Vannesse O. Rowe.

Community Conversation: Outreach Today at 11:30 AM, Undercroft

An idea is bubbling up from the community. In listening to our Soup Kitchen guests, it has become clear that there are unmet needs that we can provide. We have a room in our church undercroft that isn't being used and an idea for turning it into a place of safety and provision. Mary Bowers and Rev. Kate Wesch recently met with parishioner and long-time Soup Kitchen volunteer Bill Bevan. Bill has been on our prayer list for many months. We told him that we want to name this new outreach initiative in his honor. Bill doesn't have much to say these days, but he smiled and said, "I'd sure like to come with you."

*Updated: Rev. Kate was able to visit Bill again before leaving town and prayed Last Rites with him. Bill died peacefully in hospice care early Monday morning. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please join this exciting conversation as we figure out next steps for making this idea a reality. *A light lunch will be served.

Mother's Day Coffee Hour — Sunday, May 12

Celebrate Mother's Day Sunday with us as we honor our mothers, grandmothers, and all the incredible and nurturing women who enrich our lives. Hosted by Sandy Loether and Susan Webb, we invite you to indulge in cupcakes, fruit salad, coffee, and juice right after the 10:15 service.

Taizé Service Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM in the Church

Visio Divina with *The Saint John's Bible*Saturday, May 18, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall

You are invited to spend time with *The Saint John's Bible* to meditate, to create, to learn, to enjoy the art and the beauty of the illuminations and calligraphy. All are welcome and encouraged to drop in at any time throughout this offering.

Pentecost Sunday Sunday, May 19 — All Services

The Feast of Pentecost marks 50 days after Easter. It's the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and take the light of Christ with us back out into the world. At St. John's, we are constantly reminded of the Holy Spirit this season, as the dove mobile flies again! Many thanks to Carol Beisser and her team for getting the doves strung and on the frames. Thanks to her team for securing the frame. And, to all who helped make doves to be used this year or carefully stored for next year.

This special project is unique to this congregation and requires lots of help and. coordination. We also encourage everyone to wear red this Sunday as it symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. It could be a shirt, a tie, a blouse, a dress, a skirt, a scarf, or a necklace. Let's fill the sanctuary with the color red!

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Sunday, May 26 — 8 AM & 10:15 AM Services 9 AM - 10 AM Forum

The Ministry for Military Veterans and Active Military Personnel (MVAMP) invites everyone to a special forum and reception dedicated to honoring veterans who have passed away.

David Pittsinger, a renowned opera singer and parishioner, will lead a discussion on an operetta he recorded with his son, Richard (an opera tenor), focusing on "Arlington Sons," which tells the story of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Several years ago, Richard shared his perspective on this experience, and we are delighted to have David share his insights with us now. We will also honor parishioners and family members of parishioners who have died since Memorial Day 2023 with flags and nameplates in the Meditation Garden.

Marlene Going is archiving all names of parishioners and family members of parishioners who have served in the military and passed away. If you have not previously listed family names or need to update the information, please send all submissions to Marlene Going (mjgosxct@gmail.com) by May 12. Following the morning services, our Liturgical team invites the parish to lay a wreath in the Memorial Garden, accompanied by a hymn and TAPS. We invite all parishioners to join us in honoring those who have served and are no longer with us.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, Rector

kate@stjohnsessex.org/860-767-8095 x.12

The Rev. Wilk Miller, Priest Associate

Chelsea DiDonato, Communications Director & Parish Administrator

chelsea@stjohnsessex.org/860.767.8095 x. 10

Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist* anthony@stjohnsessex.org/ 860.767.8095 x.17

Allison Fresher, *Minister of Worship Life* allison@stjohnsessex.org

Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator* meghan@stjohnsessex.org

Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Intern for Liturgy & Preaching* mairi@stjohnsessex.org

Christina Rutland, *Seminarian Intern* christina.rutland@yale.edu

Manuel Matute, Sexton Dayle Larson, Bookkeeper

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, Prayer Shawl Ministry
Marlene Going, Weekly Food Collection
Stephanie Patterson, Altar Guild
Peggy Tuttle, Pastoral Care Card Ministry
Jennifer Miller, Meal Ministry
Ernie Brainard, Candle Master
Nat Eddy, Outreach Committee

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, Building and Grounds Greg Perruccio, Stewardship Chair Dave Rogers, Treasurer Clio Coles, Assistant Treasurer Shawn Honan, Investment Oversight Committee

VESTRY Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy, Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh



WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 AM
"Come As You Are" Worship Service — 5 PM
TUESDAYS | Bible Study, Parish Hall — 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM
THURSDAYS | Zoom Bible Study — 2:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS | Morning Prayer — 10:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426 860.767.8095 | <u>www.stjohnsessex.org</u>