



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

May 2, 2021

10 A.M.

INTROIT

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee.

The darkness is no darkness with thee,
but the night is as clear as the day.

The darkness and the light to thee are both alike.

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

O let my soul live, and it shall praise thee.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for evermore.

Words: Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 139:12, 1 John 1:5, Psalm 119:175 Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876), 1853

The invitation to worship is sounded with the ringing of the bell.

HYMN

God is Love; let heaven adore him (379, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Copyright © by A.R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (b. 1907) Copyright ©1942; Renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen!
People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Presider: The Lord 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 LESSON

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.**

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.

THE SECOND LESSON

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.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

(9, *Enriching Our Music 1*)



Setting: David Hurd, from *Music for the Eucharist*, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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Cantor: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word;
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord 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, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [*The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA*]

Presider and People

**We give our hearts to God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.**

**We see God's handiwork
in the smallest and greatest,
in the drop of water and
the galaxies arrayed in starry beauty.**

We are part of God's good work.

**We give our hearts to Jesus,
who walked softly on the earth
to show us the Way.
He lived a life of compassion,
and died at the hands of those who chose domination.
His new, risen life calls us to embody resurrection,
for one another and for the world.**

**We give our hearts to God's restless Spirit,
who renews us, remakes us,
and teaches us the way of Jesus,
enabling us to do God's work in the world.**

**We believe that it is time
for the earth to depend upon us for salvation
as we have so long depended upon her.
We give our hearts to faith in God's love
and God's power to renew all creation. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

Intercessor and People

Our Savior is resurrected from the dead, bringing renewal to Christians around the globe. With joyful gratitude, we pray for the church and for the world.

We pray for the church universal: guide the ministers of your Word as they honor the traditions of the past, tend the cares of the present, and build the communities of the future. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the world: plant wisdom and compassion in their hearts, and teach them to sow seeds of righteousness and mercy. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this wondrous creation: continue to reveal its bountiful complexity and fragile beauty, and inspire us to safeguard these gifts for all posterity. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your human family: take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this holy gathering of the faithful: strengthen us to continue in the way of the apostles, proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and strive for justice and peace among all people. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in any need or trouble: feed the hungry, tend the sick, relieve the weary, bless the dying, and soothe the suffering. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people around the globe as the coronavirus pandemic continues: comfort the grieving, protect the vulnerable, and heal the healers. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died: give them Christ's triumph over death, and bring them into your perpetual light. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the concerns that we now lift to you, either aloud or in the stillness of our hearts. [*You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.*]

Presider

Risen Christ, hear the prayers offered by these your gathered people; instill in our hearts the assurance of your resurrected life, that we may follow your Way in faith, hope, joy, and love; in the name of the one Holy and undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!

HYMN

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life (487, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)
 Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright ©1911 by Stainer and Bell, Ltd. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

You are invited to say the Lord’s Prayer in the language of your choice.

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.**

A PRAYER OF COMMUNION [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

Presider and People

**Holy God, we are your people,
 bound to you by Jesus Christ,
 through whom you assumed our fleshly vulnerability,
 and in whom we find salvation and reconciliation.
 We remember his birth, and grow in joy;
 we remember his life, and grow in love;
 we remember his passion, and grow in compassion;
 we remember his resurrection, and grow in hope;
 for all this, we give thanks.
 As we course through our days,
 make us ministers of your abiding Word,
 with the power of your eternal Spirit. Amen.**

EASTER BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

ANTHEM

Ubi caritas

Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Words: 8th-century Music: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994), 1984

After the Anthem, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.

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Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and “like” St. Thomas’s on Facebook.

Pandemic Relief! Coronavirus infections are down, vaccinations are up, and - finally! - your church leaders are beginning to talk about returning to in-person worship. Our hope is to be back in the building on Startup Sunday, September 12 (the Sunday after Labor Day). More to come!

Welcome, Baby Cooper! Rose and Chris Martinez welcomed baby Cooper to the world this past Sunday. All are happy and healthy. Hearty congratulations to Chris and Rose! Blessings be upon them all!

The Great Give 2021: May 4 & 5. The Great Give, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, is next week. Please be on the lookout for more information, and give as you can.

Yale Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles. Thursday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. - Week 1: The Church Begins in Jerusalem. All are invited! This is a great way to learn more about the Bible in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Next week we kick off an eight-week study of the Book of Acts. We'll use the Yale Bible Study curriculum, which features video conversations between noted New Testament scholars Harold Attridge and David Bartlett. See the Enews for details.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Sally Edwards, Jenny Chavira

Intercessor: Max Ballard

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Franklin (Heather and Alexandria Robison's grandfather), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:

those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Pray for those have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

St. Peter's, Monroe; St. Mark's, Mystic; St. Michael's, Naugatuck; Retirement communities, especially Seabury and Armsmead; chaplains at retirement communities, and Retired Clergy Chaplains

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Greg D'Andrea (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Valerie Garlick

Claire Scully

Sara Zampierin

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Day School Board of Trustees

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The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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