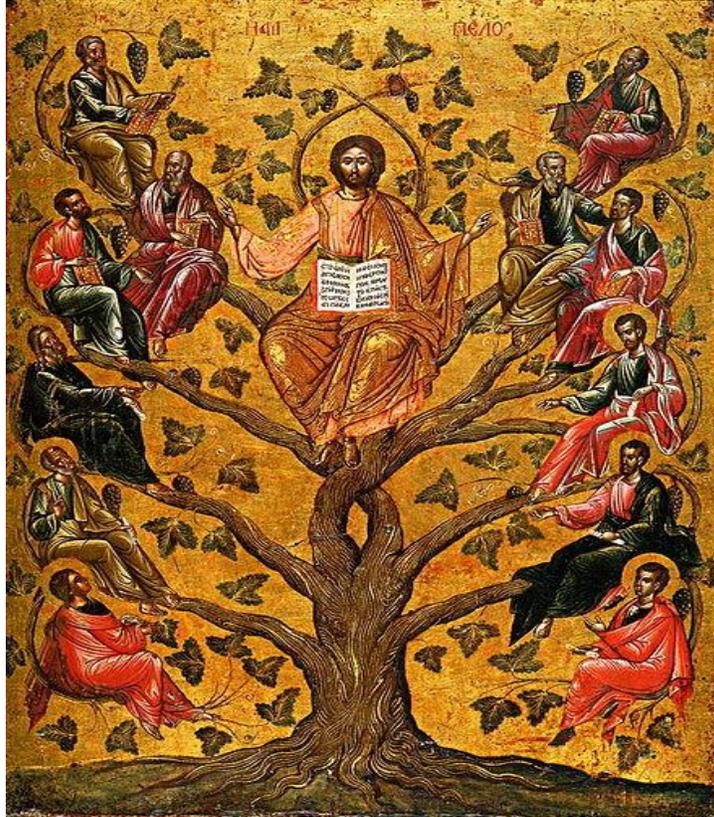


WELCOME TO
Saint Thomas of Canterbury
Episcopal Church



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

The Rev. Sharon Sheffield, *Vicar*
Sue Williams, *Bishop's Warden*
Allen Stout, *People's Warden*
Andrea Utzman, *Clerk*
William Henderson, *Minister of Music & Organist*
Marc Skuster, *Associate Organist*
Lance Brooks, *Treasurer*
John Mitchell, *Bookkeeper*
Lynne Richmond, *Minutes Secretary*

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VOLUNTARYMEDITATION ON “*MORNING HAS BROKEN*”*June Nixon**Celebrant* 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

COME, MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE

SEE PAGE 9

COLLECT OF THE DAY*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Celebrant* 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 LESSONS**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.**

The Response 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 Epistle 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 Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 15:1-8

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Sharon Sheffield

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Lector My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

VOLUNTARY

ELEVATION

Dom Paul Benoit O.S.B.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. ***Amen.***

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. ***Amen.***

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

VOLUNTARY

CHORALE ON *Abbott's Leigh*

Noel Rawsthorne

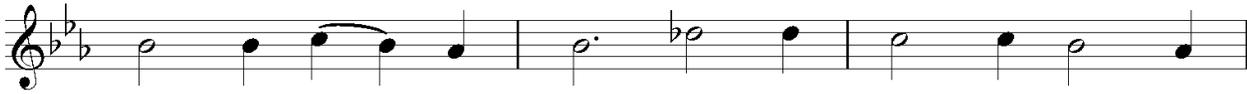
HYMN OF PRAISE

COME, MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE

The Call



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.

HYMN

GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM

Abbott's Leigh

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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

On the St. Thomas Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Choir, Ushers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Acolytes, and Altar Guild.

We pray especially for Our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishops John & Diane and our Priest Sharon.

The world, especially the people of the United States, and for peace all over the world and wherever there is oppression or trouble.

Serving in the Armed Forces at home and around the world: members of the U. S. Army: **Adam**, Michael, Bryan and Taylor; the U.S. Marine Corps: Sean, Adelangel and Bernal; the U.S. Air Force: Jordan, Joshua, and Carlos; the U. S. Navy: **Jonathan** and Charity; and the U.S. Coast Guard: **Jennifer** and Corey.

The protection and guidance of Parishioners and Friends: Ana, Bertha, Ariana, Alyssa, Joe, Deb, Mary, Sailas and his family

The healing of Parishioners and friends: Linda, Diana, Susanne, Ana, Joe, Mike, Kathy, Rae Ann, Barb, Kathy, Lindy, **Karen, Liz, Ellen, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Bert, Allen, Camelia**, Gingi, Becky, DeDe, Dawna, Reid, Beth, Michael, Kelly, Ginger, Louise, Elaine, Rob, Patricia, Duane, Natalie, Peter, Barbara, Joe, Elizabeth, Julie, Charlene, Ginny, Mark, David, James, Kevan, Ron, Barb, Jim, Amanda, Bruce, Bob, Lisa, Adelle, Mac, Molly, Kathryn, Ross, Jessica, Nancy R., Mary, Jaxon, Lisa, Earl, Liz, Pat, Jenni, Jared, Rosie, Teresa, Jeff, Joanne, Alex, Bud, Bardi, Kelly, Eric, and all parishioners and friends with health problems.

Homebound and Special Needs: Ellen, Karen, Samantha and the homeless, the poor and the unemployed, affordable housing for families, the end of COVID-19, Ebola, AIDS, and Cancer in the world, and for those suffering from mental illness.

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