

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: MAY 10, 2020

Prelude Hymn 525 - The Church's one foundation

Aurelia

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli

Opening Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect of Purity

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.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Brenda Iacocca

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,
and
“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you
may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16

David Morton

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.**
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

The Gospel: John 14:1-14

The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Homily

The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff

The Baptismal Covenant

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
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.

**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.**

With God's help, I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.

With God's help, I will persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

With God's help, I will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

With God's help, I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself.

With God's help, I will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

Prayers of the People

David Morton

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray,

Risen Lord,
Hear our Prayer.

Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings that surround us:
For our lives and for those whom we love,
For the beauty of the world God has created,
For the ways we can connect even when we are far apart,
Let us give thanks to the God of Life.

Risen Lord,
Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world,
That the powers that oppress and destroy may decline,
That justice, peace, and prosperity be lifted up.
That in this time of global pandemic we may remember the interdependence we share with our neighbors, even those on the other side of the world.

Risen Lord,
Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for those who are sick and struggling
For the safety of our healthcare and essential workers and their families
For the care of those whose livelihoods are at risk, especially those already on the economic edge
For strength and solace for those who are sick and isolated.
For those on our prayer list:

Amy, Andrew, Bob, Bonnie, Brenda, Bryar, Dave, Gail, Judy, Julie, Kate and Sawyer, Kathryn, Knox and Tina and Tim, Landon and Caroline and Baby Genevieve, Mary, Michael, Stuart, Sven, Barb, Betty, Bobbie, Carmen, Carole, Eugene, Gene and Myra, Geovanni, Hugh, Irene, Joan, John, Maggie, Pearson, Ruth and all others on our hearts and minds spoken or unspoken.

For the souls of those who have died, including Joseph Fretz, father of Carol Allbee

That the hope born of Easter give them peace, acceptance and renewal, And that through their struggles they may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores.

Risen Lord,
Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for our Church, that though we grieve our physical distance from one another and the absence of the sacrament of communion, we may trust the bonds that God has built between us and the nourishment of the sacrament past, for the world cannot wait for us to come together once again, but needs us to be the body of Christ now.

Risen Lord,
Hear our Prayer.

A Collect for Mother's Day

On this Mothers' Day we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away. We also pray for all women and men who have mothered others in any way - those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides for us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Easter Blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth
whom death could not contain
who both disturbs and heals us
bless you with power to go forth
and proclaim the gospel of new life amidst the fear of death

And the blessing of God almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Postlude Hymn 518: Christ is made the sure foundation

Westminster Abbey