

Christ Church Parish
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 at 9:00 am
Morning Prayer

Welcome: *We are glad you have joined us this morning. If you are visiting or looking for a church home, please introduce yourself to our clergy and fill out one of the welcome cards you will find in your pew. (You can drop the card into the offering plate, or give it to an usher.) The people read the portions of the service printed in **bold face**. Our order of service is from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.*

Minister

Carol Tolonen, Officiant



The Word of God

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 546

Awake, my soul

Siroë

Opening Sentence

God of abundance, send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us and bring us to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession of Sin

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.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitation and Psalms

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.

Alleluia.

Let us read together the portion of Psalm 22 appointed for today, responsively by half verse.

Psalm 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus*

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle A Song of Judith (Judith 16:13-16)

I will sing a new song to my God,
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you,
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them,
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths,
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who know you
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you
but whoever loves your ways shall stand in your sight forever.

A Reading from the First Letter of 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.

Sequence Hymn:

Come and fill our hearts with your love,
Dwell in us and we in you, Lord.
Come and fill our hearts with your love, Allelujah.

A Reading from the Gospel according to 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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflections

Carol Tolonen

Announcements

The Peace

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gratitude and gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Presentation of the Gifts

All things come of you O Lord

And of thine own have we given thee.

The Apostles' Creed

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. Amen.

The Prayers (*stand or kneel*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving kindness in the morning

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our lives.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

A Collect for the Mission of the Church

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for a Troubled World

O God, you have bound together Earth's people in a common life. Help us in our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to work together with mutual forbearance and respect. Move every human heart toward understanding and compassion, O Lord, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions may be healed and we may live together in justice and peace.

Let us now together take a few moments for silent prayer.

And let us conclude our prayers with a Prayer of General Thanksgiving.

The General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of your whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, for the loving care that surrounds us on all sides.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us and are a blessing to our neighbors.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to a deeper appreciation of the mysterious ways in which you work in us and through us. Help us to have patience and to trust that your power, working in us and through us, can do infinitely more than we can imagine.

And above all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for the wisdom and truth of his teachings and the example of his life.

Help us to be aware of the gift of your Spirit, that we may see your love at work in us, among us, and all around us, and that we may know Christ and follow his example in our everyday lives.

The Blessing

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind....and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Hymnal 657 Love divine, all loves excelling *Hyfrydol*

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Worship Servers

Usher: Alexander Scott

Counters: Nancy Stevens and Carol Tolonen

Announcements

Office Hours: Pastor Emilie's office hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30am-4:00pm. Beth's office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15am-3:00pm.

Pastor Emilie is available by phone (voice/text) at 203-392-4695, and by email at clergy@christchurchredding.org.

The deadline for eTidings and bulletin announcements/information is Tuesday morning.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Many of you have knitted or crocheted prayer shawls in the past. If you would like to knit or crochet a shawl for the church, there are directions in the Parish Hall. These shawls will be given to Pastor Emilie to bless and distribute as needed. Questions? Call Nancy Stevens at 203-938-3599.

Coffee Hour – Volunteers needed! Please sign up in the parish hall.

Needed: Please bring small (35-50 oz.) **empty** detergent bottles for the Bethel Food Pantry and put them in the blue tub by the coat rack. Thank you. Sue Pople.

Do you feel moved to set up the Lord's Table? Altar Guild members needed! Please contact Connie Scott at 203-731-1892 or Audrey Dance at 203-938-3362.

Laundry Love: The in-person events at White Street Wash are the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Using the link below, select the hour you intend to work.

<https://signup.com/go/zdyxnef>

If you would like to join the Mission Committee, please contact Sam Crocker at home (203-938-3538), cell (203-788-4185), or by email: scrocker42@gmail.com.

Intercessions

Prayer List: We pray for the following parishioners, family, friends around the world:

Keith	Virginia	Dylan and family	Heidi
Mel	Jessica	Jennifer	Mary M.
Sue	Joanne	Jill A.	Ingrid
Marston P.	Louise	Morna	Doug

Pray for patience and healing for Keith. Pray for all the victims and families of injured and dead from domestic & international terrorism. Pray for peace. Pray for prisoners. Pray for the homeless. Pray for victims of violence and abuse. Pray for addicts. Pray for the victims of all natural disasters, including recent hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, floods, snow, and tornadoes. Pray for those we don't get along with. Pray for those who have hurt us. Pray for the enemies of our country; pray for those enslaved and slaughtered by ISIS and other terrorist groups. Pray for victims of hate crimes. Pray for healthcare workers and first responders. Pray for all suffering from the virus. Pray for all suffering from famine. Pray for the intractable conflict in Israel and Gaza, praying especially for all noncombatants.

Christ Church Parish

Founded 1732

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The Staff

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203-938-2872

The Vestry

Todd Eubanks, *Warden*
Robert Kloss, *Warden*

Marianne Crew, *Treasurer*
Laura Russell, *Clerk*

Janet Metzger 2025
Chris Bartro 2026
Nancy Given 2027

Carol Tolonen 2025
Nancy Stevens 2026
Chris Colby 2025
Jill Gallagher 2027

Convention Delegates

Ann Crocker
Todd Eubanks, Alternate

Laura Russell
Robert Kloss, Alternate