



Henrico Parish

The Fifth Sunday in Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

Welcome to St. John's Church. We are glad you are here. If you are new to us today and have questions about our worship, please ask our ushers or one of our members in the pews. Here is some information to assist you:

Children's Chapel meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Nursery care is available in the Parish Hall. Your infants and toddlers are welcome to stay in the nursery during the church service.

Other Helpful Information

Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall and behind the church.

The Book of Common Prayer is red.

The Hymnal is blue. Numbers preceded by "S" are in the front of the hymnal.

Food and Beverage We thank you for not eating or drinking in the church.

Communion All are welcome at Christ's table. To receive wine by drinking from the chalice, please go to the right at the communion rail. To receive wine through intinction, go to the left; a member of the clergy will dip your wafer in the intinction cup and hand it to you. To take just the wafer or to receive only a blessing, please go to the right. *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.* To receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer communion be brought to you in your pew, let the usher know.

We will continue to livestream worship on YouTube for our online community. We hope that by offering an option for online worship, those who are not able to come to church will feel connected.

Our Mission

We are a caring, spiritual community, joyfully embracing and nurturing all;
serving God, each other, and the community.

This is a holy time and place. Please prepare for worship in silence, so others may do the same.

The Word of God

Prelude

Processional “In Christ there is no East or West”

Hymnal 529

Salutation

BCP 355

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

The Collect for Purity *Said in unison*

BCP 355

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.

Song of Praise “Glory to God” *Gloria in excelsis.*

Hymnal S 280

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.*

Please be seated.

The First Reading

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 *The choir leads the congregation in chanting the psalm.*

Psalm 22:24-30



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Deus, Deus meus

- 24 My praise is of him in the great as-sembly; *
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 be-fore **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 be-fore **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 un-born *
the saving deeds that he has **done**.

The Second Reading

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.*

Sequence Hymn "There's a wideness in God's Mercy"

Hymnal 469

The Holy Gospel *Remain standing.*

John 15:1-8

Deacon 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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ*

Sermon

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer

The Nicene Creed *Please stand as you are able.*

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 translation of the Nicene Creed was approved for congregational use at the 2018 General Convention of the Episcopal Church and is published in *Text Of Expansive Language Liturgies From Resolution 2018-D078*.

The Prayers of the People *Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

In this Easter Season, we celebrate the resurrection and our union with Christ in his risen life. Knowing that we are a beloved and redeemed people, let us pray to God who raised his son from the dead, saying “hear our prayer.”

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For the courage and the grace to be a Beloved Community, welcoming everyone.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For all houses and places of worship, especially for Emmanuel (Beckford Parish), Woodstock; Grace & Holy Trinity, Richmond; Immanuel on the Hill, Alexandria; and St. Andrew’s (Beckford Parish), Mt. Jackson.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle, and Bud, our bishops, for the clergy of St. John’s, and for all who proclaim the Good News of the Risen Christ.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For the elected leaders and unelected policy makers of our nation, and for an informed and active citizenry.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For justice and peace on this earth, especially in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Haiti, South Sudan, and other places of unrest.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For your creation, which you have called good, that our hearts may be enriched to care for it.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For all who are sick, addicted, struggling, burdened, or suffering, especially Claire, Johnny, Rosa, Lana, Marti, Judith, Brett, Charlie, Mike, Chase, Brenda, Pauline, Jane, Kate, George, Mark, John, Stokes, Anne, Shelby, Claudia, Faye, Doug, Paul, Will, Mary, Dudley, and Paul.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For the dying and the dead, especially for the Rev. Kenneth Garrett, Marsha Wilmer, Sarah Shepard Weaver, and Stuart Pocklington, who died recently.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For the newly married, especially Kenneth Lovelace and Grace O'Brien, who were married here yesterday.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

For our own needs and thanksgiving, which we offer either silently or aloud.

God of redemption and renewal, *hear our prayer.*

Silence is kept.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

BCP 360

Announcements

The Offertory Anthem *Come My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Arr. Sydnor

The Presentation of the Offering "Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!" *verse 3*

Hymnal 205

3. Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that

3. life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:

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, al - le - lu - ia!

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The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 125

The Celebrant continues as participants kneel or remain standing.

The Great Amen

WL&P 863

A - men. A - men. A - men.
A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Fraction Anthem *All sing.*

WL& P 875

Cantor or Choir
Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the
break - ing of the bread. *1. Congregation* Be bread. *2. Cantor or Choir* The
bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -
Congregation
mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be
known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the
Cantor or Choir
bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though
Congregation
man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord
Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Please sit or kneel. All are welcome at Christ's table. *To receive wine by drinking from the chalice, please go to the right at the communion rail. To receive wine through intinction, go to the left; a member of the clergy will dip your wafer in the intinction cup and hand it to you. To take just the wafer or to receive only a blessing, please go to the right. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. To receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer communion be brought to you in your pew, let the usher know.*

Communion Hymns "I come with joy to meet my Lord"

Hymnal 304

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Recessional "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place"

LEVAS 120

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
 (2. There are) bless - ings you can - not re - ceive Till you
 (3. If you) say He saved you from your sin, Now you're

1. know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord. There are
 2. know Him in His full - ness, and be - lieve. You're the
 3. weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, you can

1. sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, And I
 2. one to pro - fit when you say, "I am
 3. make it right if you will yield; You'll en -

1. know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
 2. going to walk with Je - sus all the way."
 3. joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that we feel.

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,
 Stay right here with us, fill - ing us with your love.

And for these bless - ings we lift our hearts in
 praise; With - out a doubt we'll know that we have
 been re - vived when we shall leave this place. 2. There are
 3. If you place.

The Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ.

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

Postlude

The flowers at the altar are in celebration of Kenneth Lovelace and Grace O'Brien, who were married here yesterday.

Welcome to St. John's Church

If you are seeking a place to explore your faith, we invite you to make St. John's Church your spiritual home. Please complete a visitor card, found in your pew, and place it in the offering plate to receive our weekly email. We hope that you will join us immediately following the service for coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

Prayer for St. John's Church

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship. Amen.

Land Acknowledgment

Please join us in acknowledging and honoring the Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of the land on which St. John's Church now stands: the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Nottoway, Pamunkey, Patowomeck, Powhatan, Upper Mattaponi, and Rappahannock tribes. We offer our respect to their tribal members past and present.

*Thank you for disposing of your bulletin and insert in the recycling receptacle
if you do not intend to take them with you.*

Serving this Morning

Celebrant	The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
Preacher	The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
Assisting Priest	The Rev. Robin Teasley
Deacon	The Rev. JD Dickinson
Minister of Music	Curt Sydnor
LEM	Cabell Jones
Acolyte	Bert Hillier
Lectors	Daryl Quackenbush, Lisa Wood, and Victoria Hauser
Ushers	Cheryl DePodesta and Ann Hardy
Greeter	John King
Tellers	Daryl Quackenbush and Ann Hardy
Children's Chaplain	The Rev. Anne Lane Witt
Videographer	Mac Woolley
Altar Guild	Louise Lee, Raymond Elmore, Lisa Wood, Rachel Schrage, and Susan White
Nursery Attendant	Samia Amrouche

Staff

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, *Rector*, awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org
The Rev. Robin Teasley, *Interim Assistant to the Rector*, rteasley@saintjohnsrichmond.org
Patty Duffy, *Parish Administrator*, pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org
Curt Sydnor, *Minister of Music*, csydnor@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Associated Clergy

The Rev. Deacon JD Dickinson, *Deacon*, jdickinson@saintjohnsrichmond.org
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, *Children's Chaplain*, alwitt@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Deacon Intern

Cabell Jones, cjones@saintjohnsrichmond.org

In the Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

St. John's Church Vestry

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Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741

