



**Henrico Parish
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020
10:30 a.m.
Liturgy of the Word**

Welcome to St. John's Church. We are glad you have joined us for our online worship service this morning.

The service can be accessed by logging into our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch. Search for the post entitled "Easter 6 Sunday Morning Liturgy of the Word" and click on the arrow to begin the video premiere. You can also access the video on our YouTube channel, "St. John's Episcopal Church, Richmond" and on our website, www.saintjohnsrichmond.org; click on the link to the video as indicated. The premiere has a "live chat" feature and we welcome your participation; the video will also be saved for future viewing at your convenience.

If you are new to us today and have any questions about our worship or the life of our parish, do not hesitate to contact our rector, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer, at awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org. Be sure to visit our website, saintjohnsrichmond.org, and sign up for our newsletter.

As we prepare our hearts for worship during this unusual and uncertain time, here is a prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book that has comforted the hearts of many over the ages.

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to us
as we wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. *Amen.*

Our Mission

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

St. John's Church, Henrico Parish
Office: 2319 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23223 804-649-7938
www.saintjohnsrichmond.org www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch/
Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741

Prelude

Spirit of the Living God

Words of Welcome

Opening hymn "All creatures of our God and King" (verses 1, 2, 5, & 7)



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Opening Acclamation

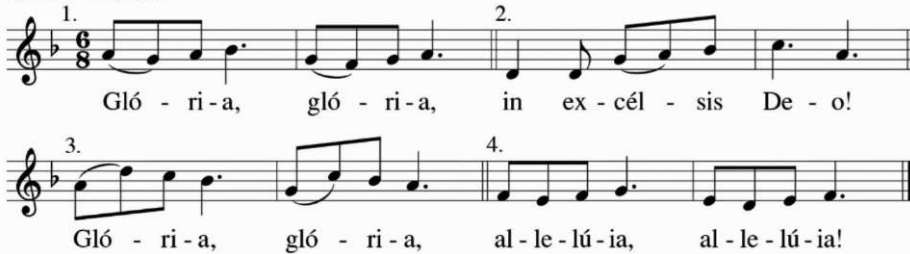
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Collect for 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 Gloria

Canon—4 voices



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Response *Said in unison*

Psalm 66:7-18

Jubilate Deo

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8 Who holds our souls in life, *

- and will not allow our feet to slip.
9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.
16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;
17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Reading

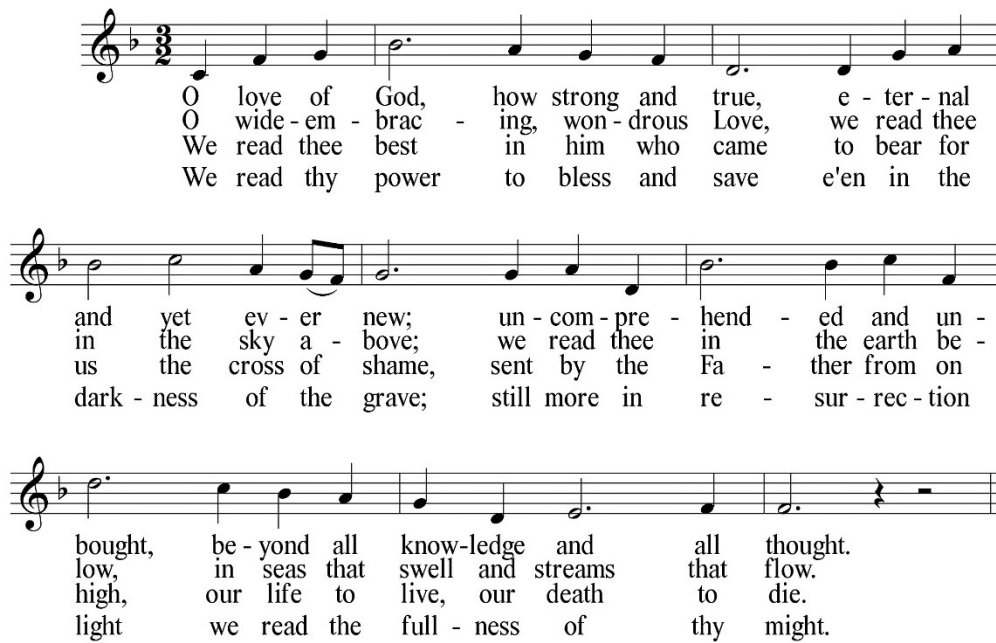
1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you~ not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn "O love of God, how strong and true"



O love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
 O wide - em - brac - ing, won - drous Love, we read thee
 We read thee best in him who came to bear for
 We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the

and yet ev - er new; un - com - pre - hend - ed and un -
 in the sky a - bove; we read thee in the earth be -
 us the cross of shame, sent by the Fa - ther from on
 dark - ness of the grave; still more in re - sur - rec - tion

bought, be - yond all know-ledge and all thought.
 low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
 high, our life to live, our death to die.
 light we read the full - ness of thy might.

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Denise Bennett

Music for Meditation *Terra Beata*

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

In the radiant light of the resurrection, we pray for the church, God's creation, those in need, and all the members of God's family, responding to each petition with the words "Hear our prayer."

A brief silence.

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.

A brief silence.

O God, our Creator, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer**

We pray, O God, for all the churches around the globe: for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Susan and Jennifer, our Bishops, for the clergy and laity of this congregation; for all who cannot assemble for worship; for faithful endurance during this time of physical distance; for understanding that we are the Church even if we are not in our church; and for a deepening sense of your presence among us.

A brief silence.

O God, our Temple, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the well-being of creation: for the health of seas and rivers and lakes; for the James River; and for the will to care for your earth.

A brief silence.

O God, our Rainbow of promise, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for peace and justice in the world: for an end to war and international turmoil; for concord in our troubled society; for the heads of state, legislators, and local civic leaders, that they enact wise procedures to respond to the coronavirus and to the inequity exposed during this pandemic.

A brief silence.

O God, our Mighty Fortress, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God for all impacted by the coronavirus: for all who mourn and grieve; for all who have contracted the virus; for all who are quarantined or stranded away from home; for all who have lost their employment or who are experiencing reduced hours; for all those whose employment places them at risk; for those who fear the present and the future.

A brief silence.

O God, our Everlasting Arms, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for physicians, nurses, home health aides, first responders, and medical researchers. Fill the aching in our hearts with your merciful power.

A brief silence.

O God, our Healer, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for all who are suffering for the faith; for all who are experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness; for those who are sick and those awaiting death; and for those we name before you here; for Cheyenne, Lydia, Paul, Herb, Kenny, John, the Curtis family, Amanda, Bruce, Ellen, Bishop Susan, Helen, Rebecca, Charlotte, Michael, Faye, Paul, Will, Virginia, Ford, Bill, and all who suffer because of COVID-19.

A brief silence.

O God, Lover of Mercy, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the desires of our hearts:

A longer period of silence.

O God, our Heart's Desire, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks, O God, for all who died in the faith.

A brief silence.

O God, our Alpha and our Omega, in your goodness: **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Lord's Prayer

Leader And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray.

All 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 Peace

Announcements

Blessing

Closing Hymn

The Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia. Let us love and care for one another in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

Postlude

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 visit our website at saintjohnsrichmond.org and sign up for our newsletter.
To inquire about membership, please contact our rector, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer at
awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org

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.

Serving this Morning

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant	The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
Preacher	Denise Bennett
Deacon	The Ven. David Curtis
Minister of Music	Jim Bennett
Clarinetist	Todd Van Gordon
Flutist	Susan Bagot
Choristers	Patty Duffy,
Readers	Reeves McCune, Barbara Bayler, Kathy Dixon, and Mary Garner Devoe
Video editor	Andy Russell

In our prayers this week:

Our city: for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: for all chaplains, staff and volunteers who minister in jails and prison, half-way houses, work-release and after-care programs

The sick or in need: for Anna, Cheyenne, Paul, Herb Broda, Kenny Burchett, John Carpenter, the Curtis family, Amanda Daggett, Bruce Duffy Ellen Flory, The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Helen Hudson, Rebecca Jarboe, Charlotte Kerr, Michael Maloney, Faye Proto, Paul Roper, Will Skinner, Virginia Smith, Ford Thompson, Bill Thornton, and all those who suffer because of COVID-19.

The diocesan cycle of prayer: for St. James's, Richmond; St. Stephen's, Richmond; and Christ, Lucketts, Leesburg.

If you have a prayer request, please notify Patty Duffy, our Parish Administrator. We will pray for those who are sick or in need for one month, unless you specifically request us to do otherwise.

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Patty Duffy, *Parish Administrator* pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org
Jim Bennett, *Minister of Music* jim@saintjohnsrichmond.org

In the Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, *Suffragan Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, *Assistant Bishop*

Associated Clergy

The Ven. J. David Curtis, *Deacon* dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, *Children's Chaplain*

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