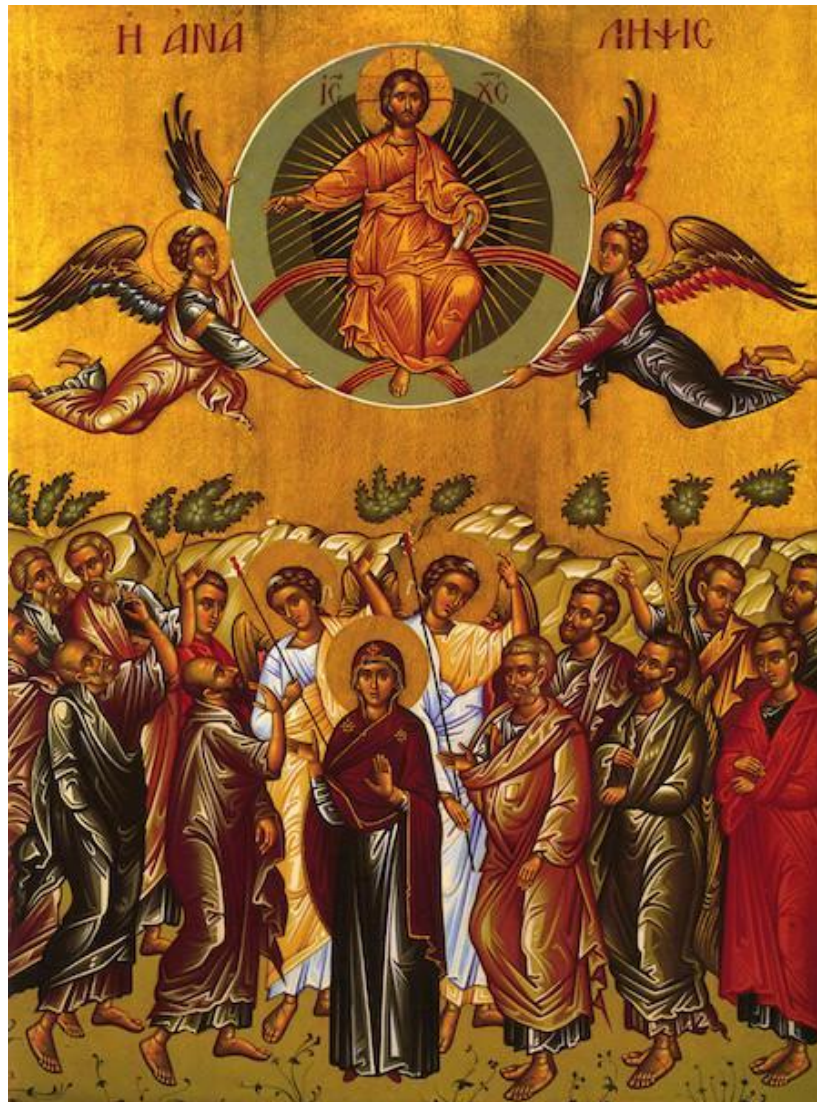


ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



HOLY EUCHARIST
ON
ASCENSION DAY

MAY 13, 2021

Worship in a Season of Pandemic

Guidelines and Directives

May 2021

As we return to in-person worship, we are learning new ways of gathering as a congregation. For everyone's safety, all in attendance for worship at St. Mary of the Hills must covenant to the following guidelines and directives:

+ Attendance at any indoor service is limited, as directed by the Bishop of Western North Carolina's directives (April 29, 2021).

+ Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness (fever, cough, aches, or other symptoms of COVID-19) should not attend. A full list of symptoms and information are available through the CDC (www.cdc.gov)

+ A minimum of three feet of physical distance must be maintained at all times by individuals who do not share the same household. Pews are marked to ensure appropriate distancing.

+ Masks that cover both mouth and nose completely must be worn at all times. Children under the age of two are exempted from this requirement (per CDC guidelines). Please bring your own mask; if you do not have a mask, one will be provided.

+ Keep your mask on when you come forward for communion. You may remove your mask when you consume the bread, before returning to your seat.

+ Please exit the Church immediately following service and refrain from congregating inside for conversation. We look forward to the return of Coffee Minute in the future.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

5:30 PM

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The celebrant says the Collect, after which the people respond, Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 93

¹ The Lord is King;

he has put on splendid apparel; *
the Lord has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.

² **He has made the whole world so sure ***
that it cannot be moved;

³ Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

⁴ **The waters have lifted up, O Lord,**
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

6 **Your testimonies are very sure, ***
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
for ever and for evermore.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24: 44-53

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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 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.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence follows. The people may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect.

THE PEACE

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

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

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**

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THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant says,

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served at that altar. Come forward to one of the four stations, marked with a blue 'X'. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available/. Please receive the consecrated host in your hand before removing masks to consume the bread. Communion will be administered in one kind, bread, only. Anglican teaching has long upheld that receiving communion in one kind (only bread or only wine) is to have received the sacrament in its entirety. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest.

For those unable to receive the sacrament this day, we offer this prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being offered, in celebration of your resurrection, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant offers a blessing over the assembly, and the people respond, **Amen.***

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster
Dr. James Bumgardner
Greta Wilson
Joe Raulerson
Bill Stroh
Caleb Brigman, Emme Hooks, Kathryn Santiago, Jacob Smith
Megan Redford, Alex Scheurer, Chloe Shaut

Rector
Priest Associate
Assisting Clergy
Organist/Choirmaster
Parish Administrator
Financial Secretary
Sexton
Choral Scholars
Nursery Assistants

THE VESTRY

2021

Sterling Hutcheson
Gigi Poole
E.B. Springs
Jim West

2022

Doug Galke, Jr. Warden
Lisa Kaufman
Roy McCraw
Tim Silver, Sr. Warden

2023

Marjory Holder
Faith Jones
Chip Monroe
Patty Patella

Amanda White, Treasurer
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk

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St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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