Our mission is to equip people to grow their faith by connecting to God and others while reaching out with love.

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Bells of Norwich

A bell will be rung three times to begin our worship

Opening Hymn 379

God is Love

1 God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice;
   one embrace; with unfailing grasp God holds us, and exalt him with one voice.
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in God who laid the earth's found -
   creation sing before him and every child of every race. And when human hearts are
guides us through our earthly strife. Sin and death and hell shall
3 God is Love; and though with blindness sin afflicts all God who spread the heaven above,
breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then we find that never o'er us final triumph gain; God is Love, so
   and exalt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's found -
dation, God who breathe through breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then we find that
   creation sing before him and every child of every race. And when human hearts are
guides us through our earthly strife. Sin and death and hell shall
   and exalt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foundation, God who breathe through breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then we find that
   creation sing before him and every child of every race. And when human hearts are
guides us through our earthly strife. Sin and death and hell shall
   and exalt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foundation, God who breathe through breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then we find that
   creation sing before him and every child of every race. And when human hearts are
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   and exalt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foundation, God who breathe through breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then we find that
   creation sing before him and every child of every race. And when human hearts are
guides us through our earthly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.
Music: Abbot’s Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)
Opening Acclamation

**Presider** Alleluia, Christ is risen.
**People** The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**Hymn** "Christ is Risen, alleluia! Sing to the Lord, alleluia!"

1. All you heavens, bless the Lord. Sun and moon, bless the Lord.
2. Frost and cold, bless the Lord. Fire and heat, bless the Lord.
4. Spirits and souls, bless the Lord. Saints and humble-hearted, bless the Lord.

**Presider** May God be with you.
**People** And also with you.

**Presider** Let us pray.

**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.

**The Ministry of the Word**

**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 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   Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People    Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22

Refrain

In the presence of your people I will praise your Name.

May your Name be exalted here on earth and in heaven above.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

Refrain

For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

Refrain

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord’S for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Refrain
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 who is love, and that he abides in us. For love is from God; whoever knows love has known God. Whoever does not love does not know God. Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. No one has ever seen God, but God is love. This is why the love of God has been revealed among us, 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  Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.
People   Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn  Alleluia

St Gervais, France

The Gospel  John 10:11-18

Presider  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."

Presider  The Gospel of the Lord.
People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon  The Rev. Liz Tichenor

You are invited to join in a time of silence and reflection following the homily.

Hymn 290  Come, ye thankful people, come

2. All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;

wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;

first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for ever purified, in thy presence to abide,

grant, O harvest Lord, that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner ever more.
come with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

290; words by Henry Alford, alt; music St. George's, Windsor by George Job Elvey
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

Presider Let us pray that the fruits of Christ’s resurrection may be seen in our lives and throughout the world.

Leader Lord God, our loving heavenly Creator, we thank and praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Passover Lamb, who has taken away the sin of the world. Give new life to us and all people.
Leader: After his rising, Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” Bring your peace to this world and to our own land.

After his rising, Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” Bring your peace to this world and to our own land.

Leader: Your Son appeared to Mary Magdalene when she was weeping. Comfort those who are suffering, lonely, or grieving, especially those on our Parish prayer list, and those we now name, aloud or silently: ___.

Hear us, God of great compassion.

Leader: The Risen Christ met the women and asked them to tell the disciples about his resurrection: Guide Christians everywhere to witness to the power of faith in their lives. We pray especially for Marshall, Betsy, Parker and Lindsay; Randy, Barbara, Michael and Sara; Marlin and Judy, members of our parish family.

Hear us, God of great compassion.

Leader: Your Son strengthened the faith of Thomas by telling him to touch his hands and side. Reassure those who are troubled by doubts, and strengthen their faith in your goodness.

Hear us, God of great compassion.

Leader: Your Son conquered death by his death and won the victory by his resurrection. Be with those who have died, and lead them to life with you forever. This day we remember especially Carl Keesler, Karl Hesse, and those we now name, aloud or silently: ___.

Hear us, God of great compassion.

Presider: Creator of All, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A - men.

The Peace

Presider: May the peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.
For those gathered in person, if you wish to make an offering you can do so in the basket as you leave the service. If you would like to make a gift online, you can securely do so through PayPal here. You can also mail checks to the church at 399 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill CA, 94523. Thank you!
All things come of you O God.

And of your own have we given you.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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:

Sanctus S125

Composer, Richard Proulx
The Presider 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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.

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be; Honor, Glory, and Dominion, and Eternal Victory, Evermore and Evermore. Amen.
Presider  And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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

Presider  The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Communion. Please stay at your seat and Rev. Liz will come to you to offer you communion. Place one hand on top of the other to receive the bread and remain masked until after Rev. Liz has moved onto the next household before lowering your mask to take communion. We will not be sharing wine or grape juice today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, just ask. Gluten free wafers are available; please let Rev. Liz know if that’s your preference.

If you are worshiping via livestream and have picked up communion from church earlier in the week, you are welcome to consume it now, using the words, “the body of Christ, the bread of heaven.” If you have not picked up communion, you may wish to pray with this prayer:

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people who long to gather at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist has been celebrated, and, we pray, will be celebrated again soon, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.
Communion Hymn

We Are One in the Spirit

| 1. We are One in the Spirit, we are One in the Lord. We are |
| 2. We will work with each other, we will work side by side. We will |
| 3. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand. We will |
| 4. All praise to the Father, all praise to the Child, all praise to the |

One in the Spirit, we are One in the Lord; and we pray that all work with each other, we will work side by side; and we'll guard each one's walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand; and together we'll praise to the Mother in whose love I am beguiled, all praise to the unity may one day be restored; dignity and save each one's pride; and they'll know we are Christians by our spread the News that God is in our land; Spirit: all creation reconciled!

love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love. Peter Scholtes, 1968

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Announcements

Thanksgivings and Concerns

The Hands of God

Today, tomorrow and always we rejoice in the hands of God. May God's powerful hands support you, May God's guiding hands lead you, May God's loving hands enfold you. We rejoice in the hands of God.

Blessing for Eastertide

Presider May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.
Closing Hymn

**Bells of Norwich**

1. Loud are the bells of Norwich and the people come and go,
   Love, like a yellow daffodil, is coming through the snow,
   Ring for the yellow daffodil, the flower in the snow,
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2. here, by the tower of Julian I tell them what I know.
   love, like a yellow daffodil is Lord of all I know.
   ring for the yellow daffodil and tell them what I know.
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

   Ring out, bells of Norwich, and let the winter come and go:

   All shall be well again, I know.

   **Coda**

   All shall be well, I'm telling you, let the winter come and go:

   All shall be well again, I know.

   words and music: Sydney Carter 1981 (â© added)

The Dismissal

**Presider** Let us go forth into the world rejoicing the power of the Spirit.
   Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Prayer List

Maria   Katherine
Paige   Violaine
Carole   Jennifer
Keesler Family   Pam
Green Family   Mary Pat
David   Chris
Diane   Carmel
Matt M.   Cammy
Katie   Robyn
Kristin E.   Skip
John C.   Rev. Steve
Steve   Sasha
Julie   Pat
Christina   Rick
Emily   Bob
Laurel & Saki   Teresa
Ludie   Paula
Pat A.   Jeff
Leonard   Grace
Mike & Veronique   Joy
Diane & Jared   Amy
Julie   Kathie
John & family   John
Sandy   Shelly
Betsy   Julie
Nancy   Matthew
Altrina   Dave
Phyllis I.   Pat
Klaus   Rosella
Sally & Cary   John
Glenn   Kris’ family
Jennifer M.   Betty
Jim   Bev
Jake & family   Mike
Becky   Amy
Karen   Meg
Mark   Rick
Mary Lou   Chaz
Kenny   Marcos
Len   Jim
Peggy   Jordan
Pauline   Dick
Eloise

Please Pray for those in the Armed Services
Tristan, David, Katie, Kris, Devin, Adam, Jason, John