

# St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Worship at Home: During Our Blessed Interruption

Spiritual Communion

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest  
*Priest-in-Charge*

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## THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

### Collect of 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.

### Gloria

*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.*

Celebrant: God be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **First Lesson**

***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.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

### **Psalm 22:24-30**

***Deus, Deus meus***

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.

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.

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.

### **Epistle**

***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.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

## **Gospel**

***John 15:1-8***

Celebrant: 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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **Sermon**

**The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest**

### **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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers  
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with  
the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news  
wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with  
your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your  
persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us,  
O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the  
nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and  
languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us,  
O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as  
we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it  
at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering especially, Denise Brown, Janette Davis, Doris Dickerson, Christina Foster, Christine Forrest, Eudora Forrest, Lewis Forrest, Annie Gould, Eva Hicks, Floyd Higgs, Jasmine Kee, Eli Kince, Mary Little, Jonathan Lyles, Michael Mack, Clarissa Martin, Haywood McCallum, Johnetta Merritt, Lela A. Morris, Roscoe Parker, Beblon Parks, Randolph Phillip, Venita Phillip, Steve Russell, Frank Saunders, Dora Sims, Amy Smith, James Smith, Pam Southall, Patty Sydnor, Kenny Taylor, Ed West, and Marilyn West, those who are dying, and those who grieve. Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust that we join with all who have gone before us especially, Iris King, in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!" Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Wayne Rachel II, Nigel Greene, Jeffrey Bourne, and Marc Albertson as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon your servants; Andrew and Gwen Jallah and Jennifer and Joseph Murray III that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

### **Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People: And also with you.***

## **The Offertory**

*Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the gifts we give. All are invited to make a gift to support St. Philip's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. See our website, [stphilipsrva.org](http://stphilipsrva.org) for ways to give. The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.*

## **Musical Offering**

***"In Christ there is No East or West"***

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 God thanks and praise.***

## **THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE**

Celebrant: 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**

*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.*

Celebrant: 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, according to his command, O Father,*

**Celebrant and People:**

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant: 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

*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.***

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** *Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

### **Invitation to Holy Communion**

In the Episcopal tradition, we believe that when circumstances make it impossible to consume the Eucharistic elements, our desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion.

Celebrant: I invite all those who are unable to receive the consecrated bread and wine this day, but who long for the grace and blessing of God through our Savior Jesus Christ, to join me in this Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

#### **Celebrant and People:**

**In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, 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. And 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.***

## **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal**

**kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

Celebrant: 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 perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life—be among you and remain with you always.

### **Dismissal**

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

### **Worship Participants**

**Lector:** Walter Hammond

**Soloists:**

Charmaine McGilvary / Karen Savage

Janet Copeland / Anthony Ray

Fronnell Weaver

**Organist:** Dr. Willis Barnett



Virtual Worship, Prayer, Bible Study and more	Time	Phone	St. Philip's Website or Facebook Live	Zoom
Sunday Bible Study	9 AM	Dial: 978-990-5000 Access code: 656298 #	-	-
Sunday Morning Worship	10 AM	Dial: 1-301-715-8592 ID: 937 9611 8377 Password: 074878	Go to our website: stphilipsrva.org or our Facebook page: St. Philip's Episcopal RVA	Meeting ID: 937 9611 8377 Password: 074878
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays Only Youth Sunday School	11:15 AM	-		Meeting ID: 894 3313 5393 Password: Jesus
Tuesday Night Prayer	8 PM	-	Go to our website: stphilipsrva.org or our Facebook page: St. Philip's Episcopal RVA	-
Wednesday Circle of Love Noonday Prayer	12 PM	Dial: 978-990-5000 Access code: 870051 #	-	-
General emails from church – <b>Please check often and READ.</b> Lots of church and Diocesan information included!				