



Worship with Communion

2^m Sunday after Pentecost: LGBTQ+ Awareness

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on June 6, 2021

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness fill us with the light of day!
All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.
Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Words: Henry Van Dyke, 1907. Music: *HYMN TO JOY*, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. AMEN!**

Celebrant 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.

People **AMEN!**

All 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!

LGBTQ+ Awareness

Celebrant The Catechism of The Episcopal Church reminds us that in Jesus, we find that the nature of God is love, and that through baptism, we share in his victory over sin and death. When we regularly celebrate the renewal of our baptismal covenants, we are reminded that we strive to respect the dignity of every person and to love our neighbors as ourselves. As a denomination, The Episcopal Church has made great efforts to be open and affirming to many people who some see as “the other”. This includes our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual siblings. Collectively, the broad spectrum of differing sexual orientations and gender identities is often referred to as the LGBTQ+ community—though other variations of that acronym are also used.

June is a time in the United States when LGBTQ+ Pride Month is celebrated, with events throughout the month in many cities across the nation. Pride events help promote the self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility of the community, as opposed to the oppression, discrimination, violence, shame, and social stigma experienced by so many at various points in their lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth. FBI data indicates that hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity have continued to increase, with even higher rates among LGBTQ+ victims of color. US states continue to debate legislation targeting trans youth. Many youth and adults are still disowned by family and friends when they come out. Many suffer a disproportionate rate of homelessness.

The Episcopal Church began the journey toward full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons starting in 1976, with steps that led to us being an open and affirming denomination that embraces LGBTQ+ persons as members, leaders, and clergy. We are able to recognize the fruits of the Spirit in the LGBTQ+ persons in our midst. At St James, one of our core values is that *“We value acceptance and open-mindedness.”* We expand upon that with *“All people need a place where they can feel safe and have a sense of belonging. We value differences, embrace brokenness, and see God in all who we encounter. We are an inclusive community of faith that welcomes and celebrates diversity in age, race, nation of origin, citizenship status, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, political view, background, ability level, marital status, and anything else that makes us unique. We offer support, encouragement, and forgiveness to all people.”*

As the Body of Christ and as Americans we have much to celebrate when it comes to our treatment of LGBTQ+ persons. We also have much to grieve in our past and improve upon as we move forward.

Reader We are grateful for the gift of our lives and the gift of other people in our lives.

People **Each of us is created with dignity and worth.**

Reader We are called to love one another and to do nothing to others that we would find hateful to ourselves.

People **We honor the many ways that people live and love.**

Reader Our common life is enriched when lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth can live and learn without fear in their schools, homes, and communities. Our life is enriched when LGBTQ+ persons can feel safe in their workplace, neighborhood, and community.

People **True justice flourishes when all people can live with authenticity and integrity.**

Reader We repent of our silence in the face of cruelty in our schools, communities, and government. Our silence leads to death.

People **We weep at this senseless loss of life.**

Reader We suffer when LGBTQ+ persons are oppressed, excluded, and shamed by religious people who overlook the fundamental call to justice in our scriptures. We repent for the times when our faith traditions have named these fellow human beings unworthy. We repent for the times, including now, when this cruelty is enshrined in our laws.

People **Love does not exclude. We are all worthy.**

Reader May we work to build a community and world where LGBTQ+ people are celebrated as full and equal members, recognizing their many gifts, and loving them as children of God.

People **We celebrate the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity as a blessing that enriches us all.**

Reader Let us pray.

People **God our Creator: We believe that the Body of Christ is an imperfect but well-intentioned collection of souls. Even though we often fail to understand your Gospel, even though we often lack the courage to take risks for justice, even though we have not always welcomed your beloved outcasts, still we see that you have not abandoned us. For we believe that you still hope in us. Help us to be a better community. Send us into the world as the loving, liberating, life-giving people you imagine. All this we ask in the name of your Holy Trinity. AMEN!**

First Lesson

Reader A reading of 1 Samuel chapter 8, verses 4 through 11 and 16 through 20.
 All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also

they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots.

He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.” But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

Unison Reading

Reader Let us read in unison Psalm 138.

All I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things. When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord. Though you are high, you care for the lowly; you perceive the haughty from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your mighty hand shall save me. O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me; your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

New Testament

Reader A reading of 2 Corinthians chapter 4, verse 13 through chapter 5, verse 1.

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke" —we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 3. 20-35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and

plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All 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!

Prayers of the People

Reader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

People For our families, friends, & neighbors, & for those who are alone.

Reader For this community, the nation, and the world;

People For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Reader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Reader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, & the needy.

Reader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Reader For the entire Body of Christ, near and far.

People For all who serve God and God's Church.

Reader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

Reader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our King;

People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Reader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People Who put their trust in you.

Reader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN!

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants 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 life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. **AMEN!**

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

All **AMEN!**

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ **One Bread, One Body**

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord, of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

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Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **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 And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All **AMEN!**

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

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!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

Celebrant 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!

Blessing

Celebrant May the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and for ever more.

All Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ **Go Now with God**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Into the world as a servant, Go now with God, go now with God
 Go now, go now, go now with God. Go now, go now, go now with God.
 Offering a hand to a stranger, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Trusting in the risen savior, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Go now, go now, go now with God. Go now, go now, go now with God.
 Waters of mercy have found us, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Grace on the journey surrounds us, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Go now, go now, go now with God. Go now, go now, go now with God.
 Crossing ev'ry boundary, ev'ry nation, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Dancing in the gift of liberation, Go now with God, go now with God.
 Go now, go now, go now with God. Go now, go now, go now with God.

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Sending

Celebrant Go forth sharing the Good News of God's love! Alleluia, alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

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