Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church! Happy Mother’s Day!

We continue to slog through the Coronavirus and church online, raising our voices for justice and opening our hearts in compassion. Although it’s not easy to attend church on a computer, our community is resilient and we’re making the best of a very strange time. It’s painful to close our church doors because one of our calls as Christians is to welcome and love every single person, just as Jesus did. But for the sake of public health and members of our community who are susceptible to this virus, we need to be creative.

We are streaming our 10:15 Sunday service on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CCAlameda and at www.christchurchalameda.org (scroll down on the main page to see the Live Stream. You can also tune in on your Roku device or Apple TV. Search for the Boxcast app, then search for the Christ Church Alameda channel.

Virtual Sunday school and coffee hour will take place after church via Zoom. For more information, contact office@christchurchalameda.org

A note on today’s liturgy
Our liturgy for Easter season draws on the Episcopal resource Enriching Our Worship and on the Book of Common Prayer. In an effort to explore God’s identity, we’ve made the editorial decision to remove gendered references to God, where it’s not too awkward to do so. Some people find this very liberating, some people find it heretical, and many people don’t notice. If you have a strong reaction to the language of this liturgy, one way or the other, we encourage you to share your feedback with our Rector, Stephen McHale, at stephen@christchurchalameda.org. We also encourage you to remember that the liturgical season of Easter lasts only a few weeks. And we invite you to explore what it feels like to have your expectations in church challenged, and reflect why you feel the way you do.

Here are some tips for participating in the service:
• Please say all the parts in bold.
• There’s no excuse not to sing, people, since there’s no one to make you feel self-conscious.
• Communion is the hard part, since we can’t actually share the bread and wine consecrated on our altar. You’re free to follow along from home and interpret the sacrament as your heart calls you to do. Sacraments are connections between a person and God, so this style of communion may work for some but not others. Once we’re through all of this, we’ll talk about our experiences.

All of this feels surreal. Ambiguity and anxiety are hard. We will stay connected by phone, the Internet, and sometimes in person. Together, we’ll get through this. Please continue praying across the world affected by this unfolding tragedy, and please keep yourself safe.

Christ Episcopal Church
www.christchurchalameda.org

Image: Love Commandments of Jesus by the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
Prelude

Doretta’s aria

G. Puccini

Who could bring to light Doretta’s glorious dream?
Ah, My life! Ah, My dream!
What does wealth matter when at last flourishes blissful happiness?

Opening Hymn

vs 1-3

God of the Women, VF 21

Eb(D)       Bb7(A7)     Eb(D)
1 God of the wo - men who an - swered your call,
2 God of the wo - men who walked Je - sus’ way,
3 God of the wo - men long put to the test,
4 God of the wo - men who ran from the tomb,
5 O God of Phoe - be and min - is - ters all,

Bb(A)       Fm(Em)     Ab(G)     Bb(A)
trust - ing your prom - ise, giv - ing their all,
giv - ing their re - sour - ces, learn - ing to pray,
left out of sto - ries, for - got - ten, op - pressed,
prayed with the o - thers in that up - per room,
may we be joy - ful in answer - ing your call.

Ab(G)       Eb(D)      Cm(Bm)     Ab(G)     Bb(A)
wo - men like Sar - ah and Han - nah and Ruth
Mary, Jo - an - na, Sus - an - na, and more
qui - et - ly ask - ing: “Who smiled at my birth?”
then felt your Spi - rit on Pen - te - cost Day
give us the strength of your Spi - rit so near


Presider     Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People      Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity   All

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden: 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 God. Amen

The Gloria    S-280
Collect of the Day

From The New Zealand Prayerbook

Presider  May God be with you.
People  And also with you.
Presider  Let us pray.

God, you are the first light cutting through the void. You are the final light which we shall enjoy forever. Help us to welcome the light and walk in it always. Amen.
The Lessons

The First Reading Acts 10:44-48


While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

The Response Psalm 98

Presider Please join me in saying the Psalm.

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

The Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

Lector A reading from the First Letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.
Lector   Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People   Thanks be to God.

Gradual Video  

Palm to Palm  choreographed by A. Rasera-Holden

The Holy Gospel  

John 15:9-17

Lector   The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.
People   Glory to you, Jesus.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Lector   The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
People   Praise to you, Christ.

The Sermon  

The Rev. Stephen McHale

The Nicene Creed

We believe in God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Child of God, eternally begotten, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being; through Jesus all things were made. For us and for our salvation Jesus came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became human. For our sake Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate; Jesus suffered death and was buried. On the third day Jesus rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God. Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and the kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who proceeds from God and Jesus. With them She is worshiped and glorified. She 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 for Easter, adapted from a version used by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Evanston, IL in 2006

For our lives and those we love,
For the beauty of this earth,
For our families and our friendships,
Let us give thanks to the God of Life.

Leader Risen Jesus,
People Hear our Prayer.

For the many lay people who serve the church,
For our clergy and our bishops,
that serve the world through the church.
For those gather here in worship and prayer.

Leader Risen Jesus,
People Hear our Prayer.

On this Mother’s Day we pray for all mothers and all those with mothering hearts. For those who have lost their Moms or children. For those who have experienced abuse, estrangement, or misunderstanding. For those who long to be mothers, those expecting, and all those who provide support for parents in distress. Let us give thanks to the God who is Mother and Father to us all.

Leader Risen Jesus,
People Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may decline, and that justice, peace, and prosperity prevail.

Leader Risen Jesus,
People Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, those who struggle: and who have died: That the hope born of Easter gives them peace, acceptance and renewal.

Leader Risen Jesus,
People Hear our Prayer.
Let us pray for our community, in lament for the death of Mario Gonzalez, and for peace and comfort for his family and friends and all who knew him and loved him. We pray also for the Alameda Police Department in this time of trial – may justice be served.

**Leader** Risen Jesus,  
**People** Hear our Prayer.

**Presider** Almighty, ruler of all things in heaven and earth and our hearts: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

**Presider** The peace of God be always with you.  
**People** And also with you.

**Announcements**

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory** *Im wunderschönen Monat Mai*  
R. Schumann

*In the wonderful, fair month of May,  
as all the flower-buds burst,  
in my heart love arose.  

*In the wonderful, fair month of May,  
as all the birds were singing,  
I found my love.*
At the Lamb’s high feast we sing, 174

1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
   who hath washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;
   praise we him, whose love divine gives his sacred Blood for wine,
   gives his Body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

2 Where the Paschal blood is poured, death’s dark angel sheathes his sword;
   Israël’s hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
   Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
   thou hast opened paradise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.

3 Mighty victim from on high, hell’s fierce powers beneath thee lie;
   thou hast conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light;
   now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
   risen Lord, all praise to thee with the Spirit ever be.

4 Easter triumph, Easter joy, these alone do sin destroy.
   From sin’s power do thou set free souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
   Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto thee we raise:
   Father, unto thee we raise.
The Great Thanksgiving
Enriching our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

May God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: Jesus’ life, the cross, the tomb, and resurrection, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of Jesus. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and forever.**

Now let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us;
Fraction Anthem

Presider  Come God’s people, come to receive Christ’s heavenly food.

Communion Hymn  Let all who are thirsty come, Taize

Post

Let all who are thirsty come. Let all who wish receive the

water of life freely. Amen, come Lord Jesus. Amen, come Lord Jesus.

Communion Prayer

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.
Mother’s Day Blessing Adapted from A Mother’s Sunday Service of the Anglican Church

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us: may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us. May almighty God bless us, Mother, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

Closing Hymn vs 4-5 turn back to pg. 3 God of the Women, VF 21

Postlude

Preacher – The Rev. Stephen McHale
Presider – The Rev. Will Scott
Director of Music Ministries – Michael Moran
Soloists & Cantor – Eileen Meredith
Guest Artist – Alisa Rasera-Holden
Video Lectors – Melinda Hayes, Ray Mark
Seminarian – Andrew Schule
Altar Guild – Beth Helms, Lisa Hall, Janet Kornegay, Diana Kalar
Live Stream Producer – Jose Quinonez
Camera Operator – Amelia Quinonez-Brooks
Parish Administrator – Pamela Kruse-Buckingham