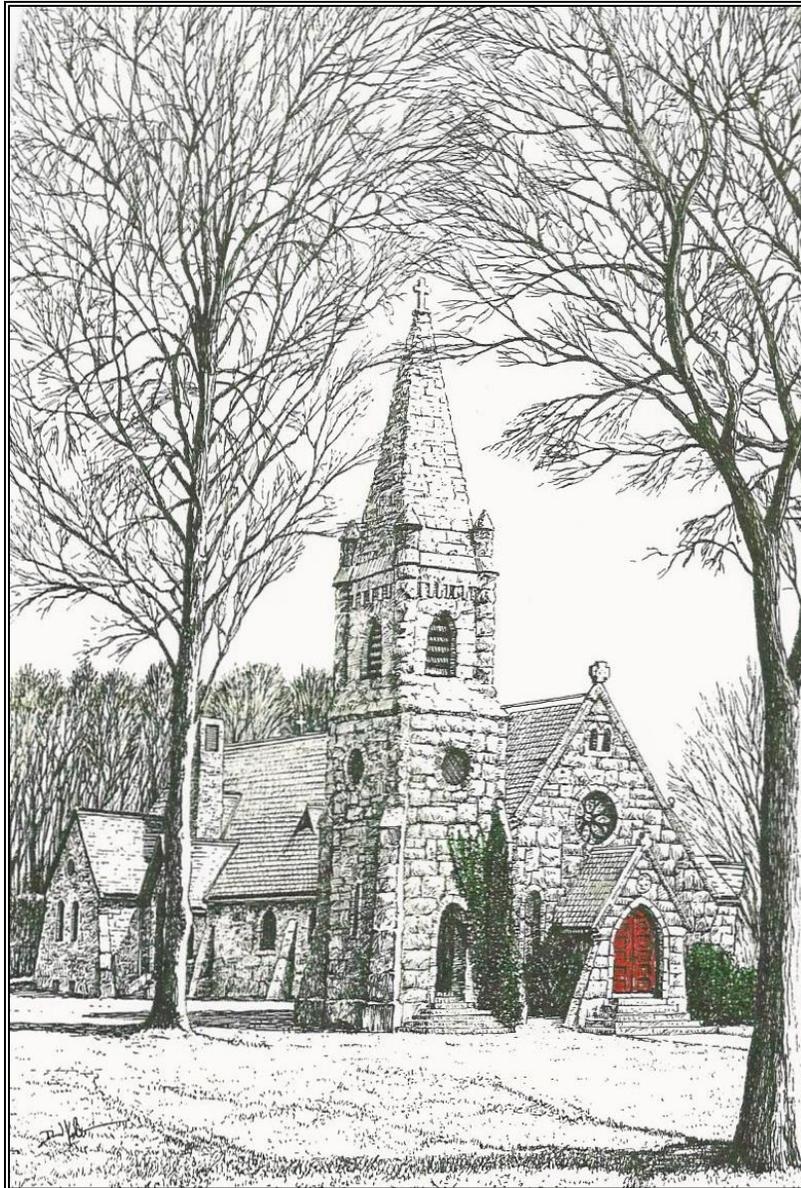


**Church of the Messiah
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

**A Liturgy of Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

April 25, 2021



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Prelude

“The Good Shepherd”

by *Dom Paul Benoit*

Welcome

Hymn 184

“Christ the Lord is risen again”

Christ ist erstanden



1 Christ the Lord is risen a - gain! Christ has bro - ken ev - ery chain!
2 He who gave for us his life, who for us en - dured the strife,
3 He who bore all pain and loss com - fort - less up - on the cross



Now through all the world it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
takes our sin and guilt a - way that with an - gels we may say:
is ex - alt - ed now to save, wrest - ing vic - tory from the grave.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia!



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, our Pas - chal Lamb in - deed,



Christ, to - day your peo - ple feed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Opening Sentences

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*
Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.
Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

- *Book of Common Prayer (1979) Pp. 88-89*

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

³He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

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

Second Reading

The Most Rev. Michael Curry

On waiting for the jury's verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd

This is a tense and troubled moment, as we await the jury's verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd.

Please pray for the soul of George Floyd, for his family, and for everyone everywhere who has suffered because of the sin of racism and oppression. Pray for all the people of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Pray for this nation that we may find the ways of both justice and healing. Pray for us all.

Whatever comes with the verdict, there is no celebration. Nothing will bring George Floyd back to his family or his community back to us. The struggle continues.

If the verdict does not establish guilt, and even if it does, our pain persists and our grief goes on.

May we not be paralyzed by our pain, our fear, and our anger. May we learn, as the Bible teaches, to “love not in word and speech but in truth and in action,” truth and action that leads to justice and healing.

Let us pray,

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless you.

~ Source: the website of the Episcopal Church: www.episcopalchurch.org on April 20, 2021

Third Reading

John 10: 11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Day

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Morning

God,
you are our beginning and you will be our end;
we are made in your image and likeness.
We praise and thank you for this day.

This is the day on which you created light
and saw that it was good.
This is the day in whose early morning light
we discovered the tomb was empty,
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.
This is the day you have made;
we shall rejoice and be glad in it. *Amen.*

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 106

Prayer for the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We pray that you graciously behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 830

For those who are sick

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

- *Ibid.* p. 461

For those we love

Almighty God, we entrust all dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and, indeed, the life to come, trusting that you, as the Creator, are doing for all and each better things than any can desire, imagine or even pray for. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

- *Adapted by DMW from the Book of Common Prayer (1979) p. 831.*

Responsive Prayer for Reconciliation

Across the barriers that divide race from race:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your love.

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your love.

Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your love.

Across the barriers that divide people of differing faiths or no faith at all:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your love.

Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your love.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears
that deny and betray our prayers.

Enable us to see the causes of strife, remove from us all senses of superiority.

Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children.

~ Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church, North Syracuse,
NY adapted by DMW from the website: www.faitwardforward.org

Silence

For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, that all may live with justice, mercy and peace. This, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Book of Common Prayer* (1979)
p. 823 adapted by DMW

Concluding Collect

Blessed are you,
God of growth and discovery;
yours in the inspiration
that has altered and changed our lives;
yours is the power that has brought us
to new dangers and opportunities.
Set us, your new creation,
to walk through this new world,
watching and learning,
loving and trusting,
until your kingdom comes.
Amen.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 465

Concluding Sentences

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believe through the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Offertory Sentences

Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem

“Brother James’s Air”

***by James Leith Macbeth Bain
arr. by Mack Wilberg***

A Prayer of Offering

Almighty God;
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 141

Prayers of our Love First Families

Shake Us From Our Slumber

When our eyes do not see the gravity of racial justice,
Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes, O Lord.

When out of fear we are frozen into inaction,
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.

When we try our best but say the wrong things,
Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.

When the chaos of this dies down,
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.

When it becomes easier to point fingers outwards,
Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.

God of truth, in your wisdom, enlighten us.
God of hope in your kindness, heal us.
Creator of All People, in your generosity, guide us.

Racism breaks your heart,
break our hearts for what breaks yours, O Lord.

Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.

- *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the website:*
www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources

A Prayer for Our Parish's Ministry

O God, Giver of all good gifts, we thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors. May our hearts be kind and generous. May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination. And may our lives and the lives of all who join us, continue to be renewed by Your love and the power of the Spirit. *Amen.*

Benediction

May God bless us with discomfort,
at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships
so that we may live
deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
so we work for
justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears,
to shed for all who suffer pain,
rejection, hunger, and war,
so we reach out our hands
to comfort and turn pain to joy.

And may God bless us
with enough foolishness
to believe that we can
make a difference in the world,
and do
what others claim cannot be done,
as we seek to bring justice and kindness
to any and all.

Amen

~ Franciscan benediction, adapted by DMW

Greeting

Hymn 708

“Savior, like a shepherd lead us”

Sicilian Mariners

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Postlude

“Fugue in G Major”

by Dietrich Buxtehude

Dismissal

Liturgical Leaders

Officiant

Jean Taft

Preacher

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Organist

Brittany Lord

Musicians and Readers

**Dicky Allison, Carol Casey
Jean Taft**

Technology

**Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon,
Jean Taft**

Altar Guild

**Mary Heard, Laura Kelly
Nancy Rea**

Church of the Messiah

2021 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Holden	<i>Treasurer</i>

Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023
Susan Morse	2024	Rachael Rhude	2024

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Denise Jay	Deanery Representative

Staff

The Rev. Deborah Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Brittany Lord	<i>Music Director, Organist</i>
Nancy McDonald	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jennifer Kelly	<i>Bookkeeper & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>
Jessica Morrison	<i>Webmaster</i>

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