



**MORNING PRAYER, RITE 2**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 2, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**

**VISION STATEMENT**

We seek to form Beloved Community, which is welcoming and diverse, with Christian worship and service at the heart.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We feed people in body, mind and spirit with the love of God, in the name of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**CORE VALUES**

Beloved Community + Loving Service + Sacred Space + Spirit Filled + Sustainability

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*All* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## OPENING HYMN

Christ is Alive

Hymnal #182

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing, His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

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## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Presider* O God let our mouth proclaim your praise.  
*All* **And your glory all the day long. Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity,  
One God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## PSALM 22:24-30 *read in unison*

- 24 My praise is of you in the great assembly; \***  
**I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.**
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
**and those who seek you shall praise you: \***  
**"May your heart live for ever!"**

**26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.**

**27 For yours is the royal power, O God; \*  
you rule over the nations.**

**28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before you.**

**29 My soul shall live for you;  
my descendants shall serve you; \*  
they shall be known as yours for ever.**

**30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that you have done.**

FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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.

*Following the reading*

<i>Lector</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>



1 Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain,  
 thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
 quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*  
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

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## THE 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.

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



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert, Music: Five Mystical Songs; Ralph Vaughan Williams. Reprinted and broadcast with permission under ONELICENSE #A-725886

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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."

*Following the reading*

*Lector* Here ends the reading

## SERMON

The Rev. Hillary Kimsey

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth;  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People and Presider*

**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 SUFFRAGES

*Officiant* Help us; O God our Savior;

*People* **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

*Officiant* Look upon your congregation;

*People* **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

*Officiant* Declare your glory among the nations;

*People* **And your wonders among all peoples.**

*Officiant* Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

*People* **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

*Officiant* Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

*People* **And your favor for those who are true of heart.**

*Officiant* Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

*People* **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

*Officiant* Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*People* **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* 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.

*All*           **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Intercessor offers the petitions, and the People respond*

**Hear our prayer**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Presider* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages.

*All*           **Amen.**

solo - 1. For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4. For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 for eve - ry - oneborn, clean wa - ter and bread;  
 a voice to beheard, a part in the song,  
 the u - ser, the used with need to for - give,  
 to live with-out fear and sim - ply to be,  
 a shel-ter, a space, a safe place for grow-ing,  
 thehands of a child in hands that are wrin-kled,  
 in an-ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speakout, to wit - ness and wor-ship,  
 for eve - ry - oneborn, a star o - ver - heard.  
 for young and for old, the right to be - long.  
 for just and un-just, a new way to live.  
 for eve - ry - oneborn, the right to be free.  
 And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus-tice and  
 joy, com-pas-sion and peace; yes, God will de-light when we are cre-  
 a - tors of jus - tice, jus-ice and joy..

DISMISSAL

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

BLESSING

*Presider* Sisters and brothers, siblings in Christ arise.  
Arise and lift your hearts, arise and lift your eyes,  
arise and lift your voices.  
The living God, the living moving  
Spirit of God  
sends us out together in witness,  
in celebration,  
in struggle.  
Reach out toward each other:  
our God reaches out toward us.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator,  
Redeemer and Giver of Life be with you and remain with you and those you  
love, both the living and the dead, this day and forever more.

*All* **Amen.**